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Residents of the Beduin village of Al Sahel, near Shfaram, yesterday watch the rebuilding of one of three illegally-built homes demolished last Thursday. The demolitions sparked weekend disturbances.

(Nati Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Following house-demolition violence:

Police on high alert as Galilee Arabs plan march

By DAVID RUDGE

Police plan to be out in force in the Galilee today amid heightened tensions following weekend riots near Shfaram in which dozens of policemen and stone-throwing demonstrators were injured.

A march by thousands from Shfaram to a nearby Beduin community is planned for this morning, and protesters have threatened to try and block the Haifa-Nazareth road at the entrance to Shfaram.

The demonstration has been called by the monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership which has also declared a general strike of the entire Arab sector for today.

Northern Region police chief Cmdr. Alik Ron accused the weekend demonstrators of launching a localized "intifada" against the police.

Ron expressed the hope that today's demonstration would pass quietly, but said police would be on full alert in case of disturbances.

The tensions followed the demolition last Thursday of three illegally-built homes in the Beduin village of Al Sahel.

Clashes erupted at the site on Saturday when volunteers went to help the families rebuild the homes and police moved in to stop

them. Demonstrators assaulted police with clubs and threw stones. Police responded with tear gas, plastic bullets, and some gave chase after rioters.

More than 20 policemen and a similar number of demonstrators were injured. At least one child in a passing car was hurt by stones and a number of other vehicles, including police cars, jeeps, and Magen David Adom ambulances were damaged.

Interior Ministry: Beduin turned down other offers,
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Nearly 20 suspected rioters were arrested.

Abed Inbitawi, spokesman for the Arab Monitoring Committee, accused police of beating people including women and children.

Arab leaders have called for a commission of inquiry to investigate.

Ron replied that the police had responded to being attacked with stones and clubs. He alleged that some protesters shouted "death to the Jews."

"Those calling for an inquiry

and my resignation are among those who incited this violence," he added.

Monitoring Committee chairman Ibrahim Nimr Hussein accused the government of declaring war on the Arab community by carrying out demolition orders despite legal and political efforts to resolve the illegal housing problem.

"Arab citizens will continue to fight against the policies of this fascist government and the demolition of homes. We see this as a struggle for our existence and to protect our legitimate rights for future generations," said Nimr Hussein, who is also mayor of Shfaram.

The committee has also called on all Arab leaders and council heads to boycott meetings with government ministers and not to host them over the Id al-Adha holiday.

"We have already received our holiday present. Instead of the promises made by [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu that children in every Arab home would have a computer, we get homes demolished by courtesy of the interior minister," Inbitawi said.

He added that as many as 12,000 homes in the Arab sector were subject to demolition orders and that the fight to save them will continue.

'Post', 'J. Report' form alliance

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Jerusalem Post and The Jerusalem Report yesterday announced they are forming a strategic alliance.

As part of the agreement the Post is to purchase a 49 percent holding in the Report, with both appointing

directors to each other's board. Post President and Publisher Norman Spector will become the Report's chief executive officer in addition to his current role, while the Report's Hersh Goodman will serve as executive vice-president of the Post.

Report managing editor David Horowitz will take over from Goodman, when the deal goes into force on May 1.

Goodman described the changes as "an exciting opportunity to create outstanding products in the field of Jewish and Middle East journalism."

A former Post staffer, Goodman will report to Spector and take on responsibility for improving the

quality of the Post's publications. At the same time, he will continue writing his back-page column in the Report and will become a member of its board of directors.

Stressing the varied nature of the products now available under the Post-Report alliance, Spector said the publications will remain distinctive and editorially independent.

"Both organizations will benefit from administrative, advertising, and circulation consolidation, from cross-promotional synergies," he added, saying the deal will also benefit from the backing of the Post's parent company, the Vancouver-based Hollinger International.

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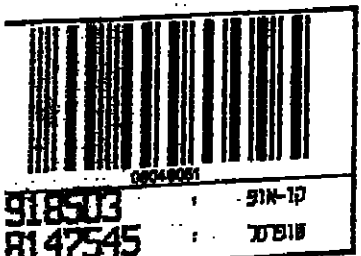
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NEWS

in brief

Residents: Don't annex Mevasseret

A new Citizens Committee Against the Annexation was formed by Mevasseret residents last night to protest the planned expansion of Jerusalem's borders. Formed under the slogan "The annexation will not pass," the committee is comprised of all the surrounding communities situated in the Jerusalem corridor. "The people of Mevasseret will not give up the right to choose their way of life," said Margalit Toledano, a spokeswoman for the group. "We have to protect our view, our nature, the green ring of trees around Jerusalem. This idea will not strengthen Jerusalem, it will weaken Jerusalem." *Elli Wohlgeleit*

Swiss envoy angry at Holocaust accounts issue

Switzerland's Ambassador Pierre Monod expressed displeasure yesterday to Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur over criticism being leveled against his country for its banks' handling of Holocaust victims' accounts. Monod indicated that the Swiss authorities were particularly upset that the World Jewish Congress and other parties have given the impression that negotiations cannot be conducted without pressure via the news media. The Swiss also are concerned that several US states were considering proposals to stop doing business with Swiss banks suspected of doing business with the Nazis. "We don't advocate boycotts," Bentsur told Monod. *Jay Bushinsky*

Bentsur plans visit to Croatia

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur plans to visit Croatia next week. He will be the highest-ranking government official ever to visit the Balkan republic which was a part of Yugoslavia until seven years ago. Eytan said yesterday he was invited to Croatia's capital, Zagreb, by its foreign minister Mate Granic. *Jay Bushinsky*

Taxi driver assaulted

An Israeli taxi driver sustained medium injuries after being attacked by three Palestinian passengers last night. Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan said the driver picked up the three Palestinians in Petah Tikva and they asked him to drive them toward Ariel. At the village Kafr Hares, the three attacked the driver before fleeing on foot. Sivan said the driver fought the three, then summoned security forces. He was taken to Beilinson Hospital. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Interior Ministry: Beduin turned down other offers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Interior Ministry said yesterday that courts deliberated the demolition of three Beduin homes in Galilee for more than four years, and that the actual destruction took place nearly two years after the last appeal was rejected. The homes were wrecked late last week in Al Sahali, a village 2 kilometers from Shfaram, and near the Jewish community of Adi, on grounds of having been built on agricultural land. The Ministry claimed that the demolition date had been coordinated with police. Defending police handling of the issue, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said on Channel 2 last night that "the police lent their support to decisions made by the Interior Ministry and local authorities."

Officials said that the families refused alternative plots that were offered at nearby Savad Hameira, a recognized village nearby, and in Shfaram, Bir Al Mahsur and Bosmat Tivon. The Beduin

refrained from signing contracts with the Israel Lands Authority even when the government agreed to pay for infrastructure, and when compensation was offered for destroyed buildings. They were also assured that the land where the homes stood would remain under their ownership, but for farm use only.

The authorities had also offered to let the Beduin remain in the village for two years until their new homes were completed, the ministry said. This offer, as well, was rejected, it added.

Ministry officials and planning committee members also held some unsuccessful meetings with mayors and residents in an effort to resolve the issue. The Ministry stressed that the houses were demolished following a court order issued on September 28, 1993.

The Beduins' appeal of the decision was rejected on May 9, 1994, but the case was reviewed again on June 5, 1996, when residents asked for the demolitions to be postponed. The last appeal was rejected on June 16, 1996.

Large military parade scheduled for J'lem Day

By ELLI WOHLGELEITER

This year's Jerusalem Day parade is scheduled to include the biggest military display in 25 years, as part of the country's jubilee, an army official confirmed yesterday.

He denied published reports that said plans for the May 24 event would include 30-40 armor-plated vehicles, possibly towing anti-tank weapons, saying he believed it was more likely that jeeps would be on parade.

The march would not proceed through the eastern half of the city, but would start from the Old City's Jaffa Gate, pass a reviewing stand outside City Hall and head

westward.

Initial reports played up the staging of such a military-type parade, warning of a possible backlash from Palestinians objecting to such a show of military might.

But officials yesterday said the march will only marginally resemble the old-time celebrations that used to be paraded every year on Independence Day.

"I don't think it will be an army parade as we used to know it," said Haggai Elias, spokesman for the city. "We usually have 30,000-40,000 people in the parade, except this year there will be more soldiers because of the 50th anniversary."

Hrawi, Assad to meet in Damascus today over pullout plan

By DAVID RUDGE

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi is expected to meet in Damascus today with Syrian President Hafez Assad as part of a flurry of diplomatic activity triggered by Israel's adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that the meeting was viewed as "part of the nervousness and extreme tension that the (Israeli) initiative has caused."

"There is obviously a situation

where the Lebanese, without openly saying it, certainly not the hierarchy, have a problem saying no to something (implementation of 425) that they have been demanding for so many years."

"It is not the first time that Hrawi has been called to Damascus for a meeting with President Assad. They are briefing each other and trying to bolster the rejection of the initiative," Lubrani added.

Officially, the Syrians have insisted that the initiative is a plot aimed at splitting Lebanon and Syria.

The Syrians and the Lebanese leadership have forged a united front in insisting that any IDF withdrawal would have to be unilateral and unconditional.

Still, signs of a possible change in the Syrian view emerged last night when Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khadam was quoted by Israel Radio as saying that there were positive elements in Israel's acceptance of 425, but that the decision did not go far enough. Khadam was quoted by Israel Radio as making the comments after a meeting in Paris with

French President Jacques Chirac.

During the meeting, which lasted more than two hours, Khadam also reportedly relayed a message from Assad to Chirac asking for details about the future of the South Lebanese Army and clarification of Israeli security demands.

Israel is seeking guarantees that would ensure the security of northern communities and the future of SLA soldiers and civilians in the security zone in the event of a pullout from Lebanon. Lubrani stressed that initiative was only in the early stages and

that a great deal of steadfastness, perseverance and patience would be required to see it through.

"It is still too early to say what is going to happen," he said.

Arieh O'Sullivan adds:

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai cautiously welcomed Khadam's remarks yesterday and said he was studying the comments.

Defense officials said Mordechai expressed satisfaction with Khadam's statements. They said that Israel would be happy to provide the Syrians with any clarifications regarding 425.

Bashara in Syria: Pullout could lead to Syrian-Lebanese clash

By LIAT COLLINS

The Syrian leadership believes an IDF withdrawal from the security zone could unleash intra-Lebanese violence or some sort of confrontation between Damascus and Beirut, MK Azmi Bashara (Hadash) said yesterday.

Bashara spoke to Israel Radio from the Syrian capital, where he is giving a series of guest lectures at Damascus University.

He has met there with the Syrian information minister and is expected to meet other officials.

He said Syria considers the only channel to security arrangements to be via peace talks and that these cannot be held with Lebanon alone.

Bashara said Israel was aware of this when it accepted UN Security Council Resolution 425 on IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, and therefore the Israeli initiative is seen primarily as a public relations exercise.

"Someone who really wants to leave Lebanon and make peace must do it with Lebanon and Syria, and the obvious way is to resume the negotiations with Syria," Bashara said.

He said he was not carrying any message from Israel.

This is Bashara's second trip to Syria in four months. He rejected a police request that he be investigated for making the previous trip without receiving the necessary permit from the Interior Ministry required for all citizens visiting what is classified as "an enemy state."

Bashara, who did not apply for the permit for this trip either, said it was part of his parliamentary privilege to travel freely in the interests of peace. He said the request to question him was politically motivated.



Increased security

IDF soldiers patrol the streets of Jerusalem yesterday as the government increased security following Hamas threats to avenge the death of bombmaker Muhi Sharif. (AP)

TA University Arab-affairs expert:

Gov't must avoid flare-up in Arab sector

By DAVID RUDGE

The government must act firmly and quickly to reduce tension in the Arab sector and prevent an escalation of violence, according to Dr. Elie Rekhess, head of Tel Aviv University's Program on Arab Politics in Israel.

His remarks followed Saturday night's clashes between police and hundreds of residents of Galilee towns and villages. The clashes began as a protest against the demolition of homes in a small Beduin community near Shfaram.

More than 20 policemen and a similar number of demonstrators were injured, and 18 were arrested on suspicion of throwing stones.

"The situation is very volatile, with the potential for a deterioration and more violence," said Rekhess.

"As a rule the Arab population in Israel has opted for political struggle with the boundaries of the law and this has been the case since the first Land Day demonstrations in 1976. Occasionally, however, we witness militant outbursts which reflect the growing level of frustration, anger, and perhaps even despair in the Arab community."

"This is what happened on Saturday. The demolition of three houses triggered a very strong reaction," he said.

Rekhess maintained that there are several factors which should be taken into account and which may have contributed to the demolition suddenly becoming a flash-point.

"It is evident that after the demolitions took place, interested political parties began to capitalize

on the situation. The municipal election campaign in the Arab sector has already started, even though the elections are not until November, and politicians are trying to use the situation for their own ends," he said.

"There is also growing resentment among Arab leaders and the community in general over the scarcity of land for building homes and expansion of villages, as well as disputes over municipal jurisdiction of the land."

"It is no accident that the level of sensitivity over the land problem is heightened by the fact that Israel is celebrating its jubilee this year, while the Arabs are marking 'al-Nakba' (the catastrophe that befell Palestinian Arabs in 1948)."

"Another factor is the fact that this confrontation occurred because of the demolition of ille-

gal Beduin homes. This indicates quite clearly that the problems besetting the Galilee Beduin are apparently as salient as those of their brethren in the South.

"There is no doubt that the law should be enforced. However, the illegal housing problem of the Arab sector has been around for at least two decades and there are no instantaneous solutions. Any decision to deal with illegal construction should be accompanied by a long-term plan for solving the housing and land problems in the Arab sector."

"At the moment, no such comprehensive long-term program exists, although the government has expressed its intention to draw one up. In the meantime, urgent and firm government intervention, in coordination with the Israeli Arab leadership, is needed to help reduce tension," he said.

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Continued from Page 1

Rantisi told the Post that on Thursday night, he and two other Hamas leaders, Ismail Abu Shanab and Ismail Hanyu, were summoned by the Palestinian Police and threatened. Rantisi quoted police officers as telling them that "even if you are political figures, if any military attack is carried out, you will be arrested and killed."

Rantisi said Hamas political leaders are not responsible for the organization's Izzadin Kassam squads and cannot prevent revenge attacks. A senior Hamas source agreed. He said that despite PA opposition, Sharif's colleagues are working on revenge attacks against Israel even if they know that the PA actually killed Sharif.

"If, indeed, the PA did it, Hamas would not point the finger at the PA," the source said. "It would point the finger at Israel. There are signs that Sharif was killed by people associated with the Palestinian security apparatus. The question is did the killers receive orders from the highest echelons of the PA? Most people in Hamas and the larger Islamic public opinion believe that Sharif was killed by people in the Palestinian security on orders from Israel."

The source said that in contrast to the Israeli assessment, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, now in the Gulf, has not been consulted regarding the organization's response to Sharif's death. He said Yassin is a figurehead and Hamas's military wing would not ask for permission to carry out attacks to avoid giving him veto power.

"Hamas has always maintained a modicum of balance of terror with Israel and it won't risk abandoning this terror for coexistence with the PA," the Hamas source said.

Opposition criticizes home wreckings

By LIAT COLLINS

Hadash demanded yesterday that the Knesset hold a special sitting over the weekend demolition of illegally-built homes in a Beduin village and the police handling of subsequent violence.

A hastily convened meeting of the Interior Committee scheduled for this morning, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly gave full backing to the police, but was expected to meet with Beduin leaders later this week.

Deputy Premier and Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who is responsible for Arab affairs, criticized

the decision by the Interior Ministry to order the demolition in Al Sahali village, saying special sensitivity should be shown to the Beduin, who serve in the IDF.

Katsav said his office had not been informed before the homes were destroyed. But he backed the right of the police to enforce the law.

Police Insp. Gen. Yehuda Wilk accused Beduin community leaders of "exploiting some unfortunate families by turning the demolition of illegal houses into a political football."

He said the police had been asked to enforce court orders and that it is inconceivable that they be

met with a hail of stones which caused some police officers injuries, requiring hospitalization.

More than 20 policemen and a similar number of demonstrators were injured in the melee.

Hadash whip Salah Salim said the police acted with brutality and charged they had used live fire as well as tear gas against Beduin protesters. Salim said the protests were not politically motivated and done only to condemn the demolitions.

Salim said the destroyed homes had been built in 1959, before master plans for development were drawn up.

Meretz whip Haim Oron called on

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to examine the police handling of the protest and said he would resubmit a bill which would restrict demolitions of Beduin structures.

Ayoub Kara, who heads the "minorities" department of the Likud Secretariat, wrote a letter of protest to several ministers, including Katsav and Kahalani, noting the demolition was carried out just a few days before the Feast of the Sacrifice, or Id-el-Adha. He said the demolition could cause unrest among Beduin youth, who are loyal to the state and serve in the IDF.

B'NAI B'RITH
It was with deep sorrow that we learned of the passing of
MORDECHAI OLMERT
father of Amram, Yirmiyahu, Ehud and Yossi,
a leader of Betar and a member of the second and third Knesset.
He gave much of himself, directly and by example, to the Jewish
people and the State of Israel.
May his memory be for a blessing.
Tommy P. Baer President
B'nai B'rith International
Dr. Sidney Clearfield
Executive Vice President
B'nai B'rith International

MITZI ANTFLICK
has passed away.
The funeral will take place at the
New Cemetery in Beersheba on Tuesday,
April 7, 1998 at 4 p.m.
Albert Antflick and family

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Jordanian water and irrigation minister:

No plan to use Kinneret as Jordanian reservoir

By ORA KOREN
and DAVID HARRIS

"The Kinneret is an Israeli lake only," Jordanian Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin said yesterday. He rejected a suggestion in *Ha'aretz* that there is agreement to replace the agreed upon storage reservoirs in the Jordan Valley with the Kinneret.

"There was no such agreement and nor will there be," he said. However, he added that Jordan will hold Israel to its commitments as they appear in the 1994 agreement.

A senior Foreign Ministry official also denied the report. There is absolutely no agreement that Lake Kinneret should become a water storage facility for Jordan, he said last night.

Yesterday's *Ha'aretz* claimed

Jerusalem and Amman have reached agreement on the direct transfer of water from the lake to Jordan, just west of Hammat Gader.

The issue has come to the fore after Jordan requested an increased supply be held in Israel, in addition to that approved in the peace agreement. However, officials in the National Infrastructure and Agriculture ministries have

said that the alternative to the Kinneret would probably necessitate the use of existing farmland.

"We will uphold the details of the peace agreement, but the storage is entirely our problem," said the Foreign Ministry official, who added that the use of agricultural land is problematic and alternatives are being sought. "But that does not mean we have agreed on the Kinneret."

The National Infrastructure Ministry refused to comment on the water issue, but a ministry source did suggest that a Kinneret-Jordan water pipeline is a distinct possibility.

The 1994 agreement set out that Israel would yield an annual 40 million cu.m. of Yarmuk River water plus a further 10 million cu.m. from desalination of brackish water sources near the Kinneret.

No water would be taken from the Kinneret itself, as Israel feared this would be a bad precedent in future talks with Syria.

Furthermore, the two countries agreed to construct two dams on the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers. The *Ha'aretz* report suggested that Jordan had agreed that one of these would be replaced by a less expensive diverting channel.

While Israel originally agreed to the construction of the dams, it was not liable to fund them. However, it did agree to find third parties that would become involved.

Meanwhile, negotiations with Jordan on the construction of Red Sea-Dead Sea canal are continuing. This is a proposal from Amman, which in recent weeks Israel has agreed to look at as a realistic joint project.



Disturbances near Ramallah

A Palestinian throws a rock at IDF troops during disturbances in Beituniya, near Ramallah, yesterday. Palestinian sources said seven people were wounded in the fighting. (AP)

Pollard rejects letter seeking a US pardon

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard yesterday rejected the text of a letter signed by the prime minister that was due to be sent to US President Bill Clinton, appealing for a pardon for Pollard on Israel's 50th anniversary.

The letter was also to have been signed by Opposition leader Ehud Barak, all the cabinet ministers and MKs from across the political spectrum.

Shortly before the end of yesterday's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu read out the text of the letter and asked the ministers to sign.

"We entreat you to use your authority to grant [Pollard] a pardon for the remainder of his term of imprisonment," the letter to Clinton read. "We base this request on humanitarian grounds."

Jonathan Pollard has been serving for more than 12 years. During this period, his health has deteriorated and his family life has been completely ruined. He wishes to immigrate to Israel after being granted Israeli citizenship, to live here as a devout Jew."

Pollard was granted Israeli citizenship by once interior minister Ehud Barak after an injunction issued by the High Court of Justice. The stumbling block was the following paragraph of the letter, which, as read out by Netanyahu, said:

"We don't have any claims as regards the legal measures taken against him, in light of the serious actions for which he was convicted, and for which Jonathan Pollard has expressed his deep sorrow and repentance."

This raised the ire of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. "It is time to stop all these games," he exploded. "After so many years, it is not possible for Israel not to admit that Pollard was working for such a mission."

Immigration Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who has been a staunch supporter of Pollard's stance on the issue, suggested calling him in prison. "Why is there no admission of the fact that Pollard was working for Israel?" Edelstein asked.

Netanyahu then queried: "How do you know that such an admission would help secure Pollard's release?"

Edelstein: "Pollard has been

thinking about this non-stop for 13 years - so let's hear his opinion."

At this point, Edelstein contacted Pollard's second wife, Esther, in Canada and she spoke to her husband. Pollard requested that the letter be frozen until the government comes out with an unequivocal statement that he was an Israeli agent or until it is ordered to do so by the High Court of Justice, which he has petitioned.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh deleted the offensive paragraph.

"The text of the letter as it stands now will do more harm than good," Pollard said in an urgent memo to Naveh later. "The critical element missing from the letter is Israel's acknowledging responsibility for me and for the operation..."

"All our Washington sources tell me that the administration is waiting for a definitive sign from the government of Israel to unequivocally acknowledge me as its agent and to admit this was a sanctioned operation... [This] is the sine qua non of my liberation..."

"Once Israel makes the request in these terms, the US would finally be in the position to accede to Israel's request," Pollard said.

PA's Erekat raps Washington for not publically detailing peace plan

By STEVE RODAN,
MOHAMMED NAJIB,
and news agencies

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat yesterday criticized the US for not making public details of its proposal aimed at breaking the deadlock in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Speaking in Cairo, he said the Clinton administration's reluctance to publicize the initiative encourages Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to continue to ignore its agreements with the Palestinians.

Erekat said not revealing the proposal would only lead Netanyahu to "keep playing his games."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr

Moussa, who met with Erekat, also urged the US to make the proposal public because "the Israeli policy of procrastination should be exposed."

Erekat is in Cairo for talks with officials on the peace talks. He will also brief Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel Maguid and Arab ambassadors in Egypt on the Palestinian position.

In Ramallah, meanwhile, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat attended a meeting of the Fatah central committee last night at which his supporters called on the US to present its plan to bridge Israeli and Palestinian positions on redeployment.

Fatah also called on Washington to pressure Israel into implement-

ing the Hebron Accords and redeploy in the West Bank. Fatah activists reviewed last week's visit by US envoy Dennis Ross and expressed support for intensified international involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian peace track.

"We are assembling all the capabilities to implement the accords," Fatah member Sakher Habash, who attended the meeting, said, "and the central committee opinion agrees with the PA cabinet about the need to stick by the accords."

Arafat spent the day in Ramallah, meeting with European Union representative Terry Berch to discuss the latest developments of the peace process and the economic situation in the PA.

Senate mulls increasing pressure to move US embassy from TA to Jerusalem

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The Senate is considering whether to apply additional pressure on the Clinton administration to make progress in moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

One measure being considered is to withhold funds for the relocation of the US Embassy in Germany from Bonn to Berlin. Sources said that the issue was discussed in recent weeks, but that no decision was made before Congress recessed Friday for a two-week spring break.

Further discussions are expected to resume when Congress reconvenes on April 20.

A spokesman for Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D., Conn.), one of the leaders of the effort to press for the embassy's move, confirmed that the subject has been discussed. "But nothing has

been finalized or introduced," he said.

Another leader in the initiative is Sen. Jon Kyl (R., Ariz.), who in 1995 introduced legislation to compel the White House to move the embassy to Jerusalem by May 1999, when final-status negotiations with the Palestinians are scheduled to conclude. The administration fought hard against that bill and enlisted the help of several Democratic senators to weaken it enough so that Clinton would not have to veto it.

The measure passed when Clinton took no action after 30 days. The current move occurs "following the administration's less than aggressive efforts" to take steps to move the embassy as mandated, a congressional source said.

Last week, the administration submitted to Congress, as required, a semiannual report on what it is doing to comply with the law to move

the embassy.

Any action on transferring the embassy to Jerusalem, it stated, "must be considered in the context" of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, since the administration is "fully committed to the success of the negotiations and is sensitive to the effect our own actions have on their prospects for success."

"As we move through this difficult time in the peace process... we must ensure that we take no steps that would undermine confidence in our role or further exacerbate already-elevated tensions over issues of special sensitivity, particularly the status of Jerusalem," the report continued.

The five-page document also said that since construction could be a six-year process, the US may have to lease space if it wants to open an embassy in Jerusalem by 1999.

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

By MICHAEL SELA

Land Day

Last week's Land Day protests were a source of much commentary in Palestinian newspapers.

"The Israeli attacks on Palestinians land continues," Ibrahim Oda wrote in *Al-Quds*. He claimed that Israel uses the peace accords as an umbrella for the Judaization of Jerusalem and other Palestinian territories. "Are there no other alternatives for the Palestinians, except for the Israeli alternative of peace?" Oda asked.

In the face of the "intensifying attacks on us," the Palestinians should reconsider their way, and "be convinced that our Palestinian revolution is the only way to pressure the world and Israel... to give the Palestinian people their right to establish their state."

On the same page of *Al-Quds*, Hassan Khater wrote that he wished that Land Day would turn into an occasion to discuss how "to intensify the contacts with the land for life, not for death."

"In its efforts to break the peace accords into fragments of percentages, Israel does not understand how it also is shattering the Palestinian spirit," wrote Ali Al-Khalili in *Al-Quds*.

Palestinian Parliament Speaker Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) wrote in the newspaper that: "The annoying and painful sight of the Jewish settlements, scattered around the occupied Palestinian lands reflects the political situation." He also called the settlements "a premeditated destruction of a central pillar of the peace process."

Qreia recalled that the principles of stages and gradual development of a political arrangement were part of the philosophy behind the peace agreement. "But Israel has not adopted this basic principle of organic connection between the elements," Qreia asserted.

The resolution of some core questions was postponed, "in order to create an atmosphere of

mutual confidence.

"But the settlement policy... widens the gap in an irreversible manner," Qreia said. He suggested that Israel immediately stop all construction on Palestinian land and admit that the settlements were built on territory taken by force.

Qreia also proposed the preparation of a survey of construction since the signing of the peace accords, and to declare the Jewish settlers foreigners who should leave Palestinian lands.

History of the conflict

A dispute over how to interpret Israeli-Palestinian history was a major issue in the Palestinian newspapers.

Ata Al-Qaimari wrote in *Al-Quds* that the debate over history will not change the future, but that nevertheless, reconciliation cannot be achieved by erasing history.

He wrote that the attitude towards history is important in the search for appropriate solutions to the conflict and that Israel should not misinterpret the facts to serve its own needs.

Al-Qaimari accused Israel of always playing the role of victim and ignoring the suffering it has inflicted on the other side. Israel does not forgive even to those who ask for forgiveness, Al-Qaimari claimed, mentioning the pope's recent apology for the Catholic church's behavior during World War II.

Al-Qaimari found some hope in the Channel 1 series *Tikva*. "In order to have real peace, the Israelis must purify themselves of past mistakes and refer to histori-

cal truth as a means of achieving reconciliation and forgiveness." *Tikva* shows a maturity and a readiness to step closer to settling the conflict, she wrote.

In search of Arab backing

While insisting always on "independent decision making," the Palestinians nevertheless resort to "Arab solidarity" whenever they fear losing hopes of advancing their political goals.

Even veteran politician Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi called this

week for a search for Arab solidarity, at the end of a long article in *Al-Quds*, in which he portrayed the history of what he described as the "Zionist occupation of Palestine, with the support of Britain."

Popular Front leader, Abd al-Rahim Malluh in al-Ayyam, called for an Arab summit to be convened to devise a new strategy.

On the same issue, an *Al-Quds* editorial asked whether the stagnation of the peace process is a result of the lack of coordination among the Arab states, or because Israel is good at the game of negotiating on several channels.

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NEWS

in brief

Ministers approve border crossing to Jordan

The Ministerial Committee for the Development of the Negev and Galilee yesterday approved a proposal by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to set up a new border crossing into Jordan in the Tsofer region of the Arava.

Sharon gave a committee in charge of setting up border crossings three months to come up with a recommendation to the government about how to operate the border station.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Sarid urges debate over private weapons sales

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said yesterday he would raise the issue of private weapons and military technology sales in a sub-committee of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He alleged that some private companies are circumventing Defense Ministry monitors by setting up shop abroad for arms sales.

He gave the example of Uri Roitman, who never requested a license from STBAT - the ministry office which monitors such sales - when he set up his company as a South American firm.

Itim

NII sanctions continue

National Insurance Institute workers will today continue the labor sanctions they began yesterday to protest the failure to add staff despite the increased workload caused by the rise in unemployment compensation and welfare cases. The workers are refusing to see the public or answer telephones.

Itim

Panel on unemployment to discuss Rahat crisis

A directors-general committee on unemployment headed by the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Moshe Leon, met yesterday to discuss unemployment in Rahat in the Negev and Arab communities in the Galilee. It decided to set up professional training courses in Rahat that would provide immediate jobs for 200 out of an estimated 975 jobless people there. Farming and engineering projects for Rahat were also discussed.

Itim

Olim get special Pessah training

More than 1,000 Russian immigrants are expected to participate in communal seders sponsored by SHUVU/RETURN in nine communities nationwide.

In addition to the communal seders, SHUVU, an organization aiding the absorption of immigrant children in religious schools, is sponsoring 21 parents' evenings before Pessah featuring a model seder conducted by a Russian speaker. Between 3,000-4,000 new immigrants are expected to attend the model seders.

In conjunction with the parents' evenings, SHUVU is distributing eight tons of matzos, 7,000 bottles of wine and grape juice, and 3,500 Haggadot.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Technion expert helps break US code

The American National Standards Institute has halted approval of a new triple encryption standard, meant to protect sensitive money and data transfers over computer lines, following the breaking of the code by a Technion expert and a Norwegian colleague. The *New York Times* reported recently that Dr. Eli Boehm, of the computer sciences department, and Dr. Lars Knudsen of the University of Bergen, pointed out weaknesses in the code in an article they published on the Internet. The two showed that under certain conditions one could weaken the encryption and, at least theoretically, it wouldn't be any better than the code currently used by financial institutions.

Judy Siegel

Man charged with stabbing

A 21-year-old was charged yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court with stabbing another man seven times during a fight at a public phone booth five months ago.

Avraham Avraham's friends also allegedly beat up the friends of his victim, identified as a Nigerian who lives in Israel. The prosecutor asked the court to keep the suspect in jail through his trial, noting that he had a past record of violence.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Holon man remanded for violating house arrest

A 27-year-old from Holon being tried on suspicion of blackmail and assault was remanded for another three days yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for allegedly violating his house arrest and trying to extort NIS 100,000 from a prosecution witness.

Moshe Ekanon was also accused of assaulting the witness and threatening the safety of his wife and children. He was said to have demanded the money as compensation for the years he will have to spend in jail.

Ekanon's defense lawyer denied the charges.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Peretz forms new Histadrut faction

Hundreds of union members gathered at Tel Aviv's Gan Oranim last night for the founding of the Worker's List. Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz's new faction in the approaching Histadrut elections.

"For the first time, the workers will have direct representation in the Histadrut, regardless of what party or political stream they belong to," Peretz told the gathering.

Peretz's move is intended to counterbalance the Oz List recently formed by a number of the large unions.

The new list will join the Am faction, which comprises Labor, Likud, Shas, and Mada, Peretz said, and get 25 percent of the representation in all the Histadrut institutions, ensuring the workers' interests are preserved.

Michal Tudelman

Five arrested in Frankel stoning

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IDF troops yesterday arrested five Palestinians in Bir Naballah, near Ramallah, suspected of stoning an Israeli car over the weekend and critically wounding Eliezer Frankel, 65, of Rishon LeZion, the IDF Spokesman said. Immediately following the

attack, an intensive investigation was launched since stone-throwers have repeatedly attacked Israeli vehicles. The investigation led to five Palestinians, aged between 17 and 32, the army said. Early yesterday, the five were arrested and taken in for interrogation.

OC Central Command Maj.-

Gen Uzi Dayan later updated

Frankel's family on the arrests. Frankel, who sustained severe head injuries, remains unconscious at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem after undergoing surgery.

His wife Phina told reporters that he usually took a different route when returning home from

work at the Atarot industrial zone north of Jerusalem and therefore she was not concerned until she received the news of his injury.

Meanwhile, Col. Yossi, IDF commander in the Ramallah area, ordered the road between Bir Naballah and Betuniya because of the numerous stonings. He said that the stone-throwers have pre-

ferred to attack cars driven by women.

He later met with his Palestinian counterpart to demand the Palestinian Authority rein in the stone-throwers, Israel Radio said.

Margot Dudkevitch contributed to this report.

Booby-trapped seltzer bottles found in Gush Katif

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IDF and Border Police sappers detonated a makeshift bomb made up of seltzer bottles and explosives discovered in Gush Katif yesterday.

The bomb was placed along the fence separating Gush Katif and Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip.

Discovered by an IDF patrol, the bomb was made up of four Sypholux bottles filled with gunpowder and explosives.

Remnants of the bomb were taken to a police lab for examination, the army said.

Near the bomb was a note written in Arabic, which according to security sources said "Death to the Jews."

The bomb was placed at a point where IDF patrols pass, and it is believed they were the target of the bomb, security sources said.

IDF troops swept the area but did not find any other bombs. Military sources said it was not the first time that such bombs have been found and note there has been an increase in such incidents.

"Today's incident is just one of many," Shela Shoshan, a resident of Kfar Darom, told Israel Radio. "Exactly three years ago today there was a bomb that blew up at our gate which killed eight soldiers and civilians. Since then until today there have been dozens of shooting incidents on an average of one every two weeks. What we are expecting is that the government learn its lessons from the Oslo Accords and not continue with it," she said.

"We also expect the army to be one that initiates and not just reacts. To our regret, here they only deal in reaction."

Population to exceed 6 million 'very soon'

By DAVID HARRIS

With the country's 50th anniversary less than a month away, Israel's population is about to pass the six million mark, Central Bureau of Statistics spokesman David Neumann said yesterday.

Over the last 50 years the country has experienced one of the fastest population growth rates in the world, although that rate has been very uneven.

While in the 1950s there was an annual growth of 8%, that has now shrunk to 3%, the figure seen in the mid-1960s.

While the full official 1997 figures will only be published around August, the bureau estimates that 80.8% (4.85 million) of the population is Jewish, with the remainder comprising 900,000 Moslems (15%), 150,000 Christians (2.5%) and 100,000 Druse (1.7%).

Of the Christians, a considerable proportion are the spouses of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. While Neumann said exact details will only be available in the summer, he did confirm that more than 50% of the Christian population is Arab.

Neumann said the natural population increase among the Arab community is considerably slower than it was some 30 years ago.

In the early 1960s the birth rate stood at 9.2-9.3 children per woman, while today that number is down to 4.6-4.7. This, however, compares to a rate among Jewish mothers of fewer than three chil-

dren. Currently, 120,000 children are born every year to Jewish parents, with 31,000-32,000 in the Arab community.

The average birth rate stands at 21 per 1,000 people, with that figure rising to 37.2 for Moslems and shrinking to 18.2 for Jews.

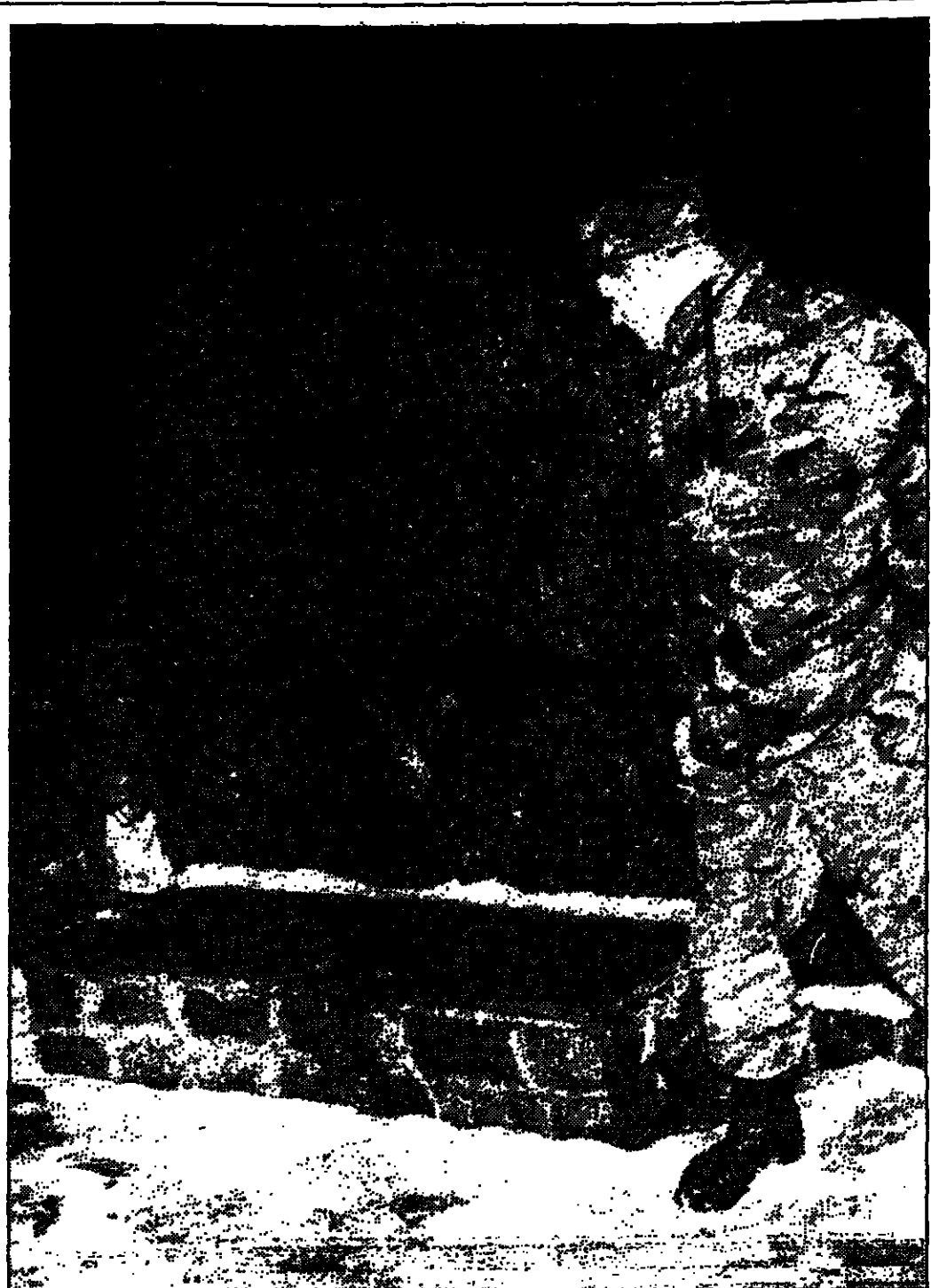
At the same time, with 35,000 deaths per year, that rate is currently around 6.4 per 1,000, with 7.1 in every 1,000 Jews dying and 3.1 among Arabs.

The average age of the Jewish population is also rising, and now 11% are aged 65 or older. This is of concern, according to Neumann, but is still a small concern compared to the 18% in Sweden, 15% in Germany and France and 13% in the US. Fewer than 10% of the Arab population are aged 65 and above.

Looking ahead, Neumann said the unforeseen immigration in the 1990s proved that projections of population figures can often be way off the mark.

Consequently, the bureau abandoned its 1988 forecast for 2010 long ago. Over the next 10 years, Neumann said, it is likely the population will continue to grow at 2.2% to 2.3% each year.

However, at that point the growth is likely to slow, as the parents conceived during the 'baby boom' of the 1960s and 1970s cease having children. From that point, the Jewish growth will be far more dependent on immigrants, said Neumann.



Guarding Jewish monument

A Latvian police officer guards a Jewish monument in a cemetery in the city of Liepaja, after a monument to victims of the Holocaust there was defaced over the weekend. The Foreign Ministry yesterday condemned last Thursday's bombing of a synagogue in Riga, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center renewed its call on the Latvian authorities to ban demonstrations and public meetings of Latvian SS Legion veterans.

(Reuters)

MK Cabel to court: Shut down Arutz 7

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

MK Eitan Cabel (Labor) has petitioned the High Court of Justice seeking an order to close down Arutz 7, the settlers' radio station, which is operating without a license.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat had told the Knesset last year that the pirate station was not operating from inside Israeli territorial waters, Cabel noted in his petition. But the IDF Spokesman later refuted this when he said that the ship from which Arutz 7 broadcasts docked in territorial waters last July.

Moreover, an investigative report in *Ma'ariv* revealed that the pirate station has four transmitters - at the settlements of Bracha, Psagot, and Keshet and in the Galilee - to ensure its broadcasts are heard all over the country,

Cabel's petition notes.

According to the law, the Communications and Internal Security ministries are supposed to act against illegal broadcasts. The punishment for setting up a pirate radio station is three years' imprisonment or a fine of NIS 3 million.

The Communications Ministry is in charge of locating pirate radios and handing over the information to the Internal Security Ministry. Normally, the Communications Ministry takes such action within days, Cabel says in his petition. But, many months after it became aware that Arutz 7 was broadcasting from inside Israel, the ministry has failed to take such action, Cabel says, adding that there appears to be an ulterior motive in this failure to act.

In a legal opinion released earli-

er this year, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said that General Security Service head Ami Ayalon had warned that closing down Arutz 7 might lead to violent acts on the part of the settlers.

"Threats of violence cannot be a reason for not taking action against someone who has acted illegally. This will merely lead to a situation where any group that wishes to achieve something will threaten to use violence if its demands are not met," Cabel said later.

In reply to a question why the previous (Labor-led) government had failed to act against Arutz 7, Cabel said this had been "a mistake."

Margot Dudkevitch adds: Yoel Tsur, technical manager of Arutz 7, said yesterday that the station places its trust in the courts. "Aside from that we have nothing more to say," he added.

Wiesenthal Center slams British plan

By MICHEL ZLOTOWSKI

PARIS - The Simon Wiesenthal Center has expressed its deep concern over reports that the British government will offer restitution for property confiscated from Holocaust victims totalling only 0.3 percent of the actual value.

In a letter to UK's Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, officials of the Wiesenthal Center stated: "The reports of an offer of an initial settlement fund of £2 million is a mere 0.3 percent of the assets confiscated. Their actual current value is assessed at £600m. While 99.6% of the confiscated funds are unaccounted for, it seems that 90% of the documentary evidence has been destroyed by the government."

"In view of this administrative destruction of the overwhelming amount of material and your own stated positions on the issue of our generation's obligations to the victims of the Holocaust, we hope that you will agree that the proposal falls far short of your government's moral obligation."

"Further, a much higher proportion was paid by the Custodian from Holocaust victims account to

compensate British firms and individuals for losses of assets nationalized in Communist countries."

The Wiesenthal Center also called on Britain to launch an immediate effort to contact the governments of those former enemies subject to the Custodian's confiscations (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, etc.) for access to their migration and other records that might assist in reconstituting the missing British lists of 195,000 names.

Britain, went on the Center, should establish a search mechanism to seek out survivors and process requests from the public via telephone hotlines and the Internet.

The Wiesenthal Center said it is prepared to offer its Internet website to post a questionnaire for potential claimants. The center's officials called on Britain to open all of its relevant archives to allow cross-referencing of claim data.

"We look forward to the British government exercising the same moral leadership in this area that it has urged upon Switzerland and other World War II neutrals," the center said.

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'Newsweek' poll following failed Jones suit:

Most Americans want Clinton's probe dropped

By GENE GIBSONS

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A majority of Americans said the perjury investigation of US President Bill Clinton is unlikely to lead to charges against him and should be dropped, according to a Newsweek magazine poll issued on Saturday.

With Clinton's approval rating still flying high, 57 percent of those polled said special prosecutor Kenneth Starr should end his investigation of allegations that the president had sex with Monica Lewinsky, lied about it under oath and induced the former White House intern to lie about it in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case.

Clinton has adamantly denied the allegations.

Only 38 percent want the probe to continue, Newsweek said in its April 13 issue.

The telephone poll of 755 adults was conducted on Thursday and Friday, after US District Court Judge Susan Webber Wright dismissed the Jones civil suit that alleged Clinton made a crude advance to her while he was

Arkansas governor in 1991.

Clinton has denied that accusation.

An overwhelming 81 percent of respondents said it was unlikely that criminal charges or impeachment proceedings would be brought against Clinton while he was in the White House.

Even if there was strong evidence that Clinton lied under oath about an improper sexual relationship, 55 percent would be satisfied with an apology from the president, or no punitive action at all, while 40 percent said he should be removed from office, the poll showed.

But 49 percent would want him removed if he encouraged others to lie under oath about matters not having anything to do with sex, it said.

Clinton's approval rating held at a strong 66 percent, up from 62 percent last month, but down slightly from its highest, 70 percent, in late January.

Two-thirds of those polled agreed with the judge's decision to dismiss the Jones suit against Clinton, while 24 percent said the case

should have gone to trial.

Democrats overwhelmingly agreed with the decision, 85 percent, while Republicans were split with 47 percent in agreement and 47 percent disagreeing.

But 70 percent of the respondents said the allegations against Clinton diminished his presidency in historical context, compared with 27 percent who said it would not be affected, the poll showed.

Starr — whose aggressive prosecutorial tactics have been questioned by legal scholars and Clinton partisans since the sex scandal inquiry began in January — has vowed to continue the probe even though the Jones case has been dismissed.

"In that civil case, you cannot defile the temple of justice," he said on Thursday. "You must play by the rules."

"And if you don't play by those rules," Starr added, "if you lie under oath, if you intimidate a witness, if you seek otherwise to obstruct the process of justice, it doesn't matter who wins and who loses in the civil case. What matters, from the criminal law's perspective, is: were

crimes committed?"

In an NBC Today show interview, former prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste, a Democratic staffer in the 1974 Senate Watergate investigation, said it was time for Starr to end his probe.

"The dismissal of the Paula Jones case is not only a vindication of the president, but it's a victory for all of us in this country who are fed up with the politics of scandal and with the tabloidization of the legal process," he said.

"And I think now that we are four years and \$40 million into this investigation, it would be a good time at some point to get to closure," Ben-Veniste added.

But former Republican prosecutor Richard Leon, appearing on the same program, said Starr had a duty to press on because his current investigation grew out of allegations that Clinton conspired to corrupt the US justice system in a number of cases, including the questionable Whitewater land deal in his Arkansas past, the 1993 purge of the White House travel office and the improper acquisition of FBI background files on

hundreds of officials in previous Republican administrations.

CNN reported that Starr was considering indicting Lewinsky for perjury and naming Clinton as an unindicted co-conspirator in an effort to bring additional pressure on the White House to cooperate with his investigation.

Clinton, who returned to Washington late Wednesday from a triumphal 12-day tour of six African nations, declined to comment when reporters asked him about the CNN story.

Meanwhile, the White House sex scandal investigation veered into Monica Lewinsky's book purchases and First Amendment protections as Lewinsky's mother underwent further questioning by Kenneth Starr's prosecutors.

Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, met with prosecutors at an undisclosed location, legal sources said. Lewis had been given a temporary reprieve from appearing before Starr's grand jury after two days of testimony in February upset her emotionally.

The sources said Lewis answered questions under a tentative

arrangement intended to spare her the emotional ordeal of further grand jury testimony. Prosecutors reserved the right to call her back before the grand jury if they were unsatisfied with her response in this forum, the sources said.

Starr's investigative panel has been probing charges that Clinton had sex with Lewinsky, Lewis' 24-year-old daughter, and tried to cover it up by perjuring himself and inducing the former White House intern to lie under oath in the Jones case.

The grand jury was not in session on Friday.

At the federal court where the panel meets, the legal battle shifted to questions about Starr's attempt to compel bookstores to turn over records of Lewinsky's book purchases.

Opponents of a subpoena to Kramerbooks & afterwords and a similar order to book retail chain Barnes & Noble said they violated the First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

Starr's critics asked US District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson to quash the subpoenas.

"Leave me alone." This is what Ms. Lewinsky is saying to the office of independent counsel, attorney Nathaniel Speights told Johnson, who is supervising the grand jury inquiry.

"She's not been charged with anything," Speights said of Lewinsky. "She is under investigation in this case and has the right to have her privacy protected by this court."

The judge promised to rule on the matter within a week.

Kramerbooks has not commented on a Washington Post report that one of the books bought by Lewinsky was Vox by Nicholson Baker, a novel about phone sex.

According to leaked accounts of the evidence gathered by Starr's team, she and Clinton allegedly engaged in phone sex.

If the First Amendment means anything, it means we have the right to purchase books without fear that government will inquire into our reading habits," Avin Mark Donitz, executive director of the American Booksellers Association, said at a news conference on Thursday.



Ukrainians mourn lost mine victims

Relatives of miners killed during a methane gas explosion Saturday, leave the Skachinskoho coal mine area in east Ukraine yesterday. Sixty-three miners died in the accident. (AP)

Unionists pessimistic on chances of N. Ireland accord

By ELAINE MONAGHAN

DUBLIN (Reuters) — The leader of Northern Ireland's main Protestant party said yesterday he was "not terribly optimistic" about the chances of a peace accord — and he put much of the blame on the Dublin government.

David Trimble said there was no question of his Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) walking out of the talks but added: "We are dissatisfied with the position particularly of the Irish government, because we don't know what it is."

"We do need people to clear their minds and come to a more coherent position," he said. "I am not terribly optimistic."

The focus of the high pressure peace talks shifted to Dublin yesterday, with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern holding key meetings with Protestant and Catholic leaders.

With just four days left until the talks are due to produce a peace agreement, Ahern is meeting leaders of Protestant "loyalists" who see his government as the main stumbling block.

He is also to meet Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and John Hume, leader of the nationalist

SDLP and the driving force behind the talks.

Ahern and his British counterpart Tony Blair have both expressed confidence that an agreement can be reached by a Thursday deadline, but participants say differences remain between London and Dublin.

Former US senator George Mitchell, who is chairing the talks process in Belfast, has so far failed to produce an outline peace agreement he had hoped to present to the talks participants on Friday evening.

Nevertheless, he has expressed confidence he can meet the deadline he set last month to spur the talks out of 21 months of languor.

As the talks closed for the day on Saturday, Mitchell said that, if necessary, he would write the document in "Egyptian hieroglyphics" in order to get it past the parties.

Leaders of Catholics seeking Irish unity and Protestants trying to hold on to British rule are each blaming the respective governments for holding up an agreement.

Ahern has said his government would not make further compromises on new political institutions

for the island.

The main stumbling blocks apart from the role of all-Ireland institutions are the powers of a new parliament under continued British rule and changes promised by Dublin to its constitutional claims to the North.

Roman Catholic republicans want powerful "cross-border bodies," but Protestant unionists fear this could blur the border and lead to the creation of an all-Ireland government.

Adams, whose Sinn Fein party is the political ally of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), saw the burden resting on Blair's shoulders.

"The British prime minister needs to understand that progress towards a historic and durable peace agreement cannot be held hostage to the inflexible demands of unionism," he said in a statement.

"All-Ireland institutions have to be more than talking shops," added Adams.

But, despite the difficulties, none of the participants was predicting the deadline would be missed, an event which many believe could spark a fresh outbreak of violence.

Civil marriages divide Lebanon

By ZEINA SOUFAN

BEIRUT (Reuters) — In a country described as a "House of Many Mansions," the Lebanese are bitterly split over the possibility of using civil marriage to bury differences under one roof.

To some, intermarriage between Lebanon's 18 different religious sects under a voluntary personal status code will stimulate the search for a common national identity. Others believe the proposed structure will prove another house of cards.

"To build a nation from 18 separate communities that are not allowed to build families together is certainly a recipe for fragmentation and is dangerous for the future," said Paul Salem, head of the Lebanese Center for Political Studies.

Since the cabinet approved an optional civil marriage bill in March, the topic has dominated Lebanese public and official attention.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, along with five ministers, said Lebanese society was not ready for the move. Twenty-one ministers backed the proposal promoted by President Elias Hrawi as a way to end sectarian attitudes in a country that emerged only in 1990 from 15 years of sectarian strife.

If adopted by parliament, the new law will let Lebanese hold civil instead of religious marriage ceremonies. At present couples of mixed religious backgrounds must marry outside the country.

With plane tickets booked, Greek Orthodox Sabine and Shi'ite Rheda are moving ahead

with plans for a civil marriage ceremony in Cyprus.

"I am a free person. I can get married in the way I choose to get married," said Sabine, a 26-year-old assistant film director. "I can have a religious marriage and not believe in God. It has nothing to do with it."

Her future husband Rheda — son of a philosopher and poet assassinated by Moslem fundamentalists in 1987 for his communist ideas — rejects religious interference in private matters. "I will teach my children that it is the person that matters not his religion...I will teach them the human religion, not Moslem, not Christian," Sabine said.

Moslem Ayman and French Christian Delphine got married on the banks of the river Seine.

"It's been two years since we got married in France...I am not going to wait for the Mufti or the Sheikh or the Patriarch to decide for me," said Ayman, a 31-year-old television producer. "We are living in the 20th century. They want to take us back to the 15th."

With rare unity, the country's religious leaders echoed each other with fiery rejections of the bill.

"We will never accept that a personal status law be implemented in Lebanon," the country's top Moslem religious leader Mufti Mohammed Rashid Kabbani told Reuters. "Do we want to plant the microbe of civil marriage that resulted from laicism in Europe in our societies?"

Senior Shi'ite Moslem cleric said the proposal "legalizes prostitution" while the highest Maronite Christian cleric, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, said it strayed from church teachings.

But secularists and independent religious thinkers believe there is more than religion behind the opposition.

"If marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption go out of the control of religious figures they will lose money and they will lose influence and political power," Salem said.

Sheikh Mohammed Hassan al-Amin, regarded as an enlightened Shi'ite judge and thinker, said the battle over civil marriage was

unjustified in a society boasting freedom and democracy.

He accused members of Lebanon's "disabled and incompetent sectarian system," including the religious establishment, of hindering any attempt to examine the sectarian situation.

"The debate over civil marriage that went beyond the limits of sanity and objectivity might have been aimed at creating a shock to abort all possible talk on the more important issue of abolishing political sectarianism," Amin said. Twenty-nine percent of Lebanese support voluntary civil marriage while 69 percent oppose the idea, according to a poll in the second half of February.

"It is remarkable that only two percent do not have any opinion on the subject — which proves its importance to citizens," the reputable Beirut-based Center for Development Studies and Projects said in a report on the results.

The survey, which included a random sample of 2517 Lebanese across the country, revealed that 42 percent of those in favour were between 15 and 24 compared to 21 percent for those aged 65 and over.

In a sectarian breakdown, Greek Orthodox were the largest group in favour with 61 percent approving, Maronites were 56 percent in favor, Druse 41 percent, Shi'ites 17 percent and Sunnis at only 10 percent.

Among Lebanon's estimated 3.5 million people, the largest religious communities are Moslem Shi'ites, Moslem Sunnis and Christian Maronites.

Harvard-educated Salem, who headed the watchdog "Lebanese Association for the Democracy of Elections" in the 1996 parliamentary election, said the issue was one of human rights.

"I think it is a human rights issue for young people today who grow up together in the same country... It is a basic right that they should be allowed to build families together within the confines of the law."

"If it doesn't pass this time I think there is hope in the coming years another government, another leadership will propose it and maybe that time the country will be ready."

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הכדא מן אלאל

'Grease' is the word, again

By RON KAMPEAS

Sara Wolensky has no idea who Sandra Dee is. But she and her best buddy, Amanda Phillips, know all the lines — and moves — to the song lampooning the 1950s Princess of Prude.

In fact, the two teenagers have memorized all of *Grease*, the paean to hormonal longing that predates their births and ritualizes a time of Eisenhower innocence.

And they're not alone. Across America, if revival, video, album sales are to be believed, there are millions of others who've got the same chills, and they're multiplying.

Twenty years after it first appeared on screens, *Grease* truly is the "the word." Paramount Pictures, hopeful the faithful will still come, released a digitally remastered version last week.

Why has *Grease* become such a cult? It continues to top video sales charts, reemerged on *Billboard's* album lists five years ago, and a recent Broadway revival enjoyed a long run with a bevy of celebrities rotating the roles of Rizzo, Sandy and Danny.

Even Randall Kleiser, the film's director, is not plucked by the phenomenon.

"I recently went to a midnight show with Olivia Newton-John and Didi Conn," two of the movies' stars, he recalled. "It was like *Rocky Horror*. The audience was in '50s outfits, repeating dialogue, singing along, hand-jiving in their seats."

Except *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* was deliberately postmodern, with actors addressing the camera and inviting audience participation. *Grease*, at least to the nonbeliever, seems merely a relic of the nostalgia obsession of the 1970s that inspired TV shows and movies like *Happy Days* and *The Way We Were*.

Costumed pretties spout bland homilies anachronistically interpolated with 1970s hallmarks (in *Grease's* case, leather pants and disco backbeats).

"I never imagined it would have done this business," says the movie's producer, Alan Carr, echoing just about every other partici-



1970s nostalgia obsession: Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta star in 'Grease'.

pant in the production. Since its debut in 1978, *Grease* has grossed more than \$340 million.

With hindsight, they attribute the success to a combination of the catchy score by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, with new songs for the movie by Barry Gibb, John Farrar and Louis St. Louis, and the universality of the high school experience it conveys.

Conn, who played Frenchy, explained that the cast, which starred John Travolta as Danny, Olivia Newton-John as Sandy, and Frankie Avalon as Teen Angel, immersed themselves in the high school zeitgeist for the 57-day shoot by speaking to each other only in character even when the cameras were off.

Even the nonspeaking dancers

were assigned names and characteristics, Conn said. "By staying in character, calling each other by our high school names, it gave us license to be wild and horny, to fulfill our obligations to the character," she said.

That may explain the cast's unerring timing and the fact that they seem to genuinely enjoy themselves.

No one is more infectious than the heartbreakingly young Travolta, turning *Walk into an icon* as recognizable as the curl of Clint Eastwood's lip.

Much of the dialogue between big numbers was improvised by cast members doing their best to sound like teenagers. That might explain why the dialogue sounds so half-baked. "Tell me about it,

stud," is a typical line.

The archetypes were so successful that the cast and crew became typecast.

It took Travolta until 1994's *Pulp Fiction* (where, for a few seconds, he parodies Danny Zuko) to recover. Newton-John never recovered. Channing, an actress known for her versatility on stage, found it hard to get away from "troubled girls" on screen.

"People still greet me on the street and say, 'Hi Rizzo,'" she tells Conn in Frenchy's *Grease* *Scrapbook*, a 20th-anniversary commemorative published this month by Hyperion Books.

Others now regard the film as a peak.

"There was a teenage atmosphere, energy, naiveté, innocence,"

Newton-John recalled of the shoot. "And a lot of knowingness."

The key to the film's success may be the way it captured the cusp between innocence and knowingness.

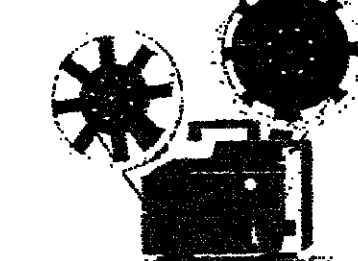
Carr reteoled the original stage show, softening the characters' toughness, moving the dangers implicit in the original — gang violence and unwanted pregnancy — off-screen. The result: plot complications dissipate into easy resolutions, and adolescent anxieties remain teases.

For Rizzo, unprotected sex results in nothing more serious than a false alarm. Suffering as an outsider, Sandy fits in simply by donning leather and perming her hair.

Risk with no consequences — who could resist? (AP)

Straight man to a jelly

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

In *Flubber* Robin Williams plays a soft-spoken mad scientist type who creates a vat of fantastical bright green goo with the power to send objects flying through space at phenomenal speeds. Most of the movie (a remake of the 1961 Disney hit *The Absent-Minded Professor*) consists of frantic demonstrations of Flubber's different bouncy applications: bowling balls, human beings, cars — everything takes off when rubbed with the stuff.

The movie functions, in other words, as a fine diversion for little kids. It's like an extended toy commercial, with dozens of

variations on the same stick repeated, and the title "character" — who looks when solid something like a mischievous blob of animate lime jello — able to transmogrify instantaneously and assume any number of funny forms. In an extended production number sequence,

FLUBBER

Directed by Les Mayfield. Screenplay by John Hughes and Bill Walsh. Hebrew title: *Ha'professor ha'miflazar*. 93 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. General audiences. With Robin Williams, Marcia Gay Harden, Christopher McDonald and Raymond J. Barry.

for instance, Flubber breaks down into hundreds of smaller units and dances a Carmen Miranda-styled mambo while also playing brass-band back-up.

Whether or not *Flubber* works as a movie in a larger sense is another matter altogether, and one that I'm willing to concede is probably beside the point. The

young children at a recent packed screening seemed perfectly happy with the narrative's fidgety fits and starts and its reliance on routines borrowed wholesale from other popular kids' movies (most notably screenwriter John Hughes's own scripts for the *Home Alone* series, with the precocious green gunk playing the villain-foiling Macaulay Culkin part). And they appeared equally unbothered by what seemed to me to be the too-perfect mechanical flow of Flubber's antics, as well as Robin Williams's disappointing readiness to let himself be upstaged by jazzy effects. So be it: the kids are responding to something else altogether, to all that giddy motion and to the rather irresistible idea that this one little ball of fluorescent goo contains enough zooming energy to wreak complete havoc on its surroundings.

The storyline, meanwhile, is quite flimsy and revolves around the professor's chronic inability to remember his date to marry his long-suffering girlfriend, a college president (Marcia Gay Harden). She has given him one



Weebo and Prof. Brainard (Robin Williams)

last chance which of course he botches. In order to win her back and fend off the various bad guys who want to steal his Flubber, he relies on the help of his trusty companion, a talkative yellow robot named Weebo (a dog in Bill Walsh's '61 script), who flashes her thoughts in the form of film clips across the little TV that stands in for her face.

Weebo's presence, it ought to be said, is one of the stranger aspects of this new version: she has a crush on the professor, and in a truly bizarre twist, creates a curvy computerized female

emanation which wanders around the professor's house and sneaks up on him while he's sleeping to kiss him on the forehead.

Director Les Mayfield handles the complex technical aspects of the film smoothly enough, though there is definitely something out of whack about the picture's priorities. Robin Williams is, at his best, himself a kind of walking, talking special effect, and here he's consigned to the dubious task of playing straight man to a blob of digital jelly.

Surprised winner takes Rubinstein Prize

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Last Wednesday at 11 p.m. 18-year-old Ukrainian pianist Igor Tcheteuev tried to be as nonchalant as he could. He had just finished playing Chopin's first piano concerto in a most dazzling rendition, the final leg of the final stage of the Ninth International Artur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition, and he had to wait for the jurors' result.

The audience gave its unanimous verdict with thunderous applause, the likes of which had never been heard in this competition. Tcheteuev tried to be calm, but of course he couldn't. The minutes kept passing and there was no sign from the members of the jury. He said he was not nervous or anxious, but it was hard to take him literally.

And then, at half past midnight, after 90 minutes of a long nerve-racking wait, the results were announced. Some 2000 enthusiastic music lovers waited to hear them.

Tcheteuev was the first to be announced as winning the Audience Favorite award. Then they announced the pianists who won sixth, fifth, fourth and third prize, and Tcheteuev's name was not among them.

"It was very encouraging not to hear my name," he recalls.



Eighteen-year-old Ukrainian pianist Igor Tcheteuev

When Vitaly Samoshko was announced as the second prize winner, at long last everything was clear.

But a glance at Tcheteuev's face revealed nothing. It seemed more melancholy than elated. Wasn't he happy?

"Tolstoy wrote in one of his novels that you can't look the way you feel," he explains. "I know I didn't smile but when I feel good about something, I do

not always smile; most of the time I don't."

Three days after winning the competition, Tcheteuev admits that he is "very tired. I don't feel anything, I really don't."

And he doesn't even remember what his immediate reaction was to winning the most coveted prize. "I don't remember. I was so confused."

Tcheteuev says that on the whole, this was not an easy competition. "In the first round I played at 9 a.m., which meant getting up at 6:30. I was very worried."

He was much more happier with his performance at the second stage — "that was very good for me."

But the Chopin concerto in the final round was less satisfactory, he admits. "I didn't hope for anything after that. Some things went well, but some things were really bad. I definitely did not expect to win first prize."

Tcheteuev began his musical studies at the encouragement of his mother. "She wanted me to know how to play the piano but nothing more. But when I was 12, I decided to take it much more seriously. It wasn't so much my decision but the overall situation. I was good at it and I thought it was worthwhile to invest in it."

That meant concentrating on

practicing and avoiding the more natural children's activities. "I knew some children, but I had no time for friends. Now I will have more friends because I know I want to and it's very important."

Tcheteuev has already played as a soloist with orchestras in the Ukraine, the former Soviet Union and France. The award he just won will bring him many more concerts as well.

But he adamantly argues, with his so-called "naïve charm," that "I don't care about my career. The only thing I care about is music."

What will Tcheteuev do with the \$35,000 prize money? "I'm not a rich person so don't worry. I'm

not going to buy a Porsche. I'll spend my time in Hanover, where I will start studying for the next five years. I will need the money for lodging, food and clothing. It won't be that easy for a Ukrainian boy to live in expensive Germany."

Igor Tcheteuev has gained the appreciation, love, and warmth of the competition audience and the jury alike. Now it is up to him to prove that he is worthy of the title and that he will become a leading pianist in a world in which there are thousands of young pianists trying to make their mark.

At least Igor Tcheteuev has a good head start.

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NEWS

of the muse

Music at Pessah I: In Jerusalem

Jerusalem's Larisa Tetuev and Susanna Poretsky sing Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* at the Classical Music Gems festival at the International Church (Hanevi'im St.) in Jerusalem April 13-18. Music by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Paganini, Vivaldi and Cherubini are part of this very exciting festival. Michael Ajzenstadt

Music at Pessah II: Israel Museum

Israel Museum Music will come alive through the various galleries and gardens of the Israel Museum April 13 and 14, including a special concert of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and a marathon of afternoon concerts by a host of musicians playing a varied program of popular classical music. Michael Ajzenstadt

Music at Pessah III: In Nazareth

The Musica Sacra festival in Nazareth (April 15-17) is an array of liturgical works performed by local and visiting ensembles. Among the highlights are Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, the Cherubini requiem, *Missa Criolla*, Sharon Rostor singing seven different versions of the *Ave Maria*, Palestrina's *Stabat Mater*, the Christmas Mass by Marc-Antoine Charpentier, the *Fauré* requiem, and many other intriguing works. Michael Ajzenstadt

Composers great and small in Zichron Ya'acov

The 18th edition of the chamber music festival in Beit Daniel in Zichron Ya'acov (April 12-16) features musical delights by better known (Beethoven, Debussy, Schubert and Bach) and lesser known (Merilainen, Gotskosik and Friedlander) composers, performed by some of Israel's leading chamber music players plus a few guests from abroad. Michael Ajzenstadt

Carlebach concert in Mevo Modi'im

Lovers of the music of the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach will have ample opportunity to sing and dance to their favorite melodies at a five-hour Carlebach music celebration to be held at Mevo Modi'im on Monday, April 13, from 7 p.m. till midnight. Key performers will be Yehuda Katz with the Reva L'sheva band, Ben Zion Solomon and his sons, and Chaim David Seracik. Kosher for Passover refreshments will be available. Transport to Mevo Modi'im will leave Jerusalem's Binyanei Ha'uma at 6 p.m. The same buses will return to the capital after the concert. Greer Fay Cashman

Haifa flute competition

The Haifa Music Center has announced its flute competition (June 10-13) which is open to flutists aged 15-30 and features solo and chamber music repertoire. Interested flutists should contact the Center at 04-8379852. Michael Ajzenstadt

Sizzling singer returns to Israel

The barefoot diva Cesaria Evora, who dazzled local audiences when she made her Israeli debut at the Briza festival in Ashkelon three years ago, returns to Israel to perform her special brand of ballads from her homeland, the small islands west of Africa. She performs May 21-23 in Mitzpe Shalem, Beit Gabriel and the Roman Amphitheater Caesarea. Michael Ajzenstadt

Conservatory chamber music club

The Israel Music Conservatory has inaugurated a club for local amateur musicians who want to play chamber music with other musicians.

The club, called Musiccamera, welcomes all interested local musicians. Call Efrat Ben-Zeev at 03-5460524 or 052-905765 on Fridays only between 9:30 a.m.-1:30. Michael Ajzenstadt

Deutsche Gramophon anniversary

Deutsche Gramophon, one of the leading CD companies in the world, is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a series of public events throughout the year all over the world, as well as numerous new recordings and reissues of its treasures in new formats. Even with the looming crisis of the classical music world in general and the classical music recordings industry in particular, there will be a lot of new DG yellow label items on the market. Michael Ajzenstadt

Seattle concert hall opens in September

Work is in progress for the September opening of the Benaroya Hall in downtown Seattle, the first specially designed concert hall in the city and the first real home of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

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An equal draft

Opposition leader Ehud Barak's proposal to draft yeshiva students is being met by skeptical support from most Israelis and with derisive threats from haredi politicians. Given the reluctance of the two major parties to tackle the most controversial pillar of the status quo over the past 50 years, the skepticism facing Barak is understandable.

Yet judging from the multitude of similar proposals from varied quarters, this may be an idea whose time has finally come.

Though antipathy to the military exemption is normally associated with the left side of the political spectrum, it is not really limited to one party or ideology. Both the left-wing Meretz and right-wing Tsomet parties have been opposing the exemption for some time. Last month for example, the Knesset soundly defeated a bill introduced by Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg that would have drafted both Israeli-Arabs and haredim into a national service program.

Labor MKs claimed they voted against the proposal because it included an anti-democratic provision, that was deleted before it came to a vote, which would have denied the right to vote to anyone who refused to participate in the national service program.

Although Tsomet is now accusing Labor of recycling its original bill, Barak's proposal does differ.

First, it does not attempt to address the issue of integrating Israeli-Arabs into a national service structure — another proposal worth pursuing separately. Second, Barak wisely set out broad principles without drafting specific legislation, thereby leaving room for quiet negotiations with the haredi parties.

The core of Barak's proposal is that the blanket draft exemption for yeshiva students will be eliminated, so that all of them would have to show up at the draft board like any Israeli. The IDF would then assign the haredi conscripts to one of three tracks: a yet-to-be-defined form of regular military service, national service in the haredi community, or, for some limited number, an exemption for yeshiva study.

Within these broad principles, there are a number of difficult issues that must be resolved. Perhaps the stickiest problem is the type of army service. The IDF, already facing a glut of new recruits as the population expands, has little interest in creating all-haredi units with numerous special requirements. Tsomet leader and former IDF chief of staff Rafael Eitan has proposed that a special haredi unit be created to guard religious sites.

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri has his own elaborate proposal, for units to be composed of haredim who are not studying in yeshivot. In any case, devising the type and conditions of service will entail some flexibility on the part of two rela-

tively inflexible institutions — the military and the haredim. There is little doubt that a solution can be found.

Other important questions are the length of service, and how many will be exempted entirely. Length of service is important both for the IDF, which does not wish to invest in soldiers serving for short periods, and for the general public, which is looking for a fairer distribution of the burden of military service. The solution for haredim need not be for shorter service, as the example of the *hesder* yeshivot demonstrates. *Hesder* students serve a full three-year stint in the army over five years, with two years of yeshiva study interspersed throughout the period.

Lastly, there is the question of whether and how many yeshiva students should retain their exemption from national or military service. Here Barak argues, sensibly, that some outstanding yeshiva students should be exempted. This, Barak argues, was how David Ben-Gurion intended the exemption to be implemented, which has ballooned from about 400 students then to about 29,000 today. Surely, in a Jewish state the study of Torah must be respected by the public and to some degree even supported by the government. But not to such a staggering extent.

All of these issues can clearly be resolved, but the important thing for the national interest is that the matter not be allowed to fester any longer. It is politically natural, with the haredim voting at about a 99 percent rate against Labor, that Barak's party would run with this issue.

The fact is, however, that Barak is right on the merits, and the Likud knows it. Even the haredi parties realize that change is inevitable.

The yeshiva exemption is costing the haredi community dearly economically, because it has artificially swelled the yeshivot with students who would not be there were it not for the draft exemption. Although it is possible to exaggerate this factor, it was the driving force behind Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's proposal for a token four-month service for haredim, which was not bold enough but should have been pursued.

If Barak plays his cards right, he could succeed in keeping the issue on the agenda, and forcing most of the non-haredi government parties to either back his proposal or pass their own. Either way, he will deserve credit for giving the issue its first real push from either of the major parties, and for demonstrating Labor's independence from the disproportionate political influence of the haredi parties.

As for the haredi parties, rather than threatening Barak with political oblivion, they should consider Moses's question to some of the tribes who hesitated before crossing into the Land of Israel: "Why should your brothers go out and fight while you stay here?"

Final-status moves

YOSEF GOELL

Israel, from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu down (including the defense and internal security ministers, as well as the head of the General Security Services) has gone to extreme lengths to protect its innocence in the violent death of Mufid Sharif, the Hamas "Engineer No. 2." That the preponderance of evidence points to Israel's truly not being involved in Sharif's death is besides the point.

The overwhelming majority of the Palestinian population in the territories wants to believe that Israel is responsible. Anything that will contribute to undermining that near universal bias, and to making it possible for the Palestinian Authority to cooperate in scotching any Hamas attack against Israel and individual Israelis is, thus, welcome.

In the immediate short-term, this Israeli protestation of innocence is pragmatically correct. In the long-term, however, it is exactly opposite of what Israel's message to the Palestinians should be. That unequivocally clear message must be that all those Palestinians, such as Sharif and his colleagues and successors, who actively order (like the regrettably rescued Khaled Mash'al), plan and execute terrorist actions against Israel are, like the dispatched "Engineer No. 1" Ayyash, sooner or later, dead men.

This does not mean we should be childish enough to repeat our public gloating several years ago over the sophisticated manner in which the GSS sent Ayyash to his everlasting reward with his 40 virgins in paradise. But it does mean that we should make it absolutely clear that the fact that we were not the ones who sent Sharif to join him, does not mean that we have abated our fight against Palestinian terrorism.

It should also be made very clear that we have every intention of imposing an extremely painful collective punishment if Hamas does carry out its threats to

revenge Sharif's death, and if the Palestinian Authority fails to do its utmost to prevent this.

This advice admittedly flies in the face of the conventional wisdom that, in the aftermath of Oslo, we should focus on mutual confidence building between us and the Palestinians in preparation for the difficult final-status talks. I believe, however, four-and-a-half years into the Oslo process, there is today less mutual confidence between us than there was at its outset.

THERE is every reason for the Palestinians not to have any confidence in Prime Minister Netanyahu. But the bitter truth is that it is the Palestinians who did absolutely nothing to build trust among Israelis — even when Israel was led by the late Yitzhak Rabin and his successor Shimon Peres.

The fact that nearly the entire Palestinian population in the territories passively — and a minority, actively — supports terrorism against Israel is not a new reality stemming from their disappointment in an Israel led by Netanyahu. It was true of every single day since September 1993 and, ironically, was the main factor responsible for Netanyahu's and the anti-Oslo Right's electoral victory in May 1996.

This does not mean that the "peace" process is dead; it should mean that it has to be rethought and continued on the basis of a more pragmatic reading of realities than the naive assumptions behind Oslo. It was argued at that time, quite convincingly, that since it was truly impossible to deal immediately with the incendiary problems of Jerusalem, the settlements, Palestinian statehood and the Palestinian demand for the right of return, building mutual trust for having the Palestinians clamp down on the terrorism in their own midst, while vastly improving the Palestinians' economic conditions,

Dry Bones



would make it possible to address those problems successfully after five or six years.

It would be burying our heads in the sand to deny that not only have these expectations not panned out, but, in regard to mutual trust, things have gotten worse.

The really big failure in the Sharif case is that the GSS, due to the intelligence and operational limitations imposed on it by the withdrawal from Ramallah and other Palestinian cities, did not track him and his fellow Hamas bombers down. It should not take an overly vivid imagination to understand what we will be letting ourselves in for if we give in to pressure for further withdrawals, unaccompanied by significantly more effective security arrangements.

This does not mean we should ditch the entire process: it does mean we should ditch the phased approach — whose success was predicated on improvements in mutual confidence — in favor of moving immediately to tackle the seemingly insurmountable issues that were postponed to final status. These do not have to be based on mutual trust but rather on mutual self-interest.

Continuing the phased withdrawal of Oslo is a losing proposition for Israel. Jumping directly to the really big final-status problems could lead to an agreement based on difficult, but mutually advantageous trade-offs. It may not be peace, but pace Shimon Peres, we now know that a "real peace" was never really an option.

No artful dodging

AARON LERNER

"The process has been stuck for a year already and it is not moving forward. We are nearing the end of the peace process. The process is in trouble, we cannot continue this way. We are not interested in a phony process and I don't think that you want a process like that either."

— US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to American Jewish leaders, March 28, 1998.

Substitute "Palestinian compliance" for "process" for a true picture of the crisis. Palestinian compliance has been stuck since Oslo began and it is not moving forward. We are nearing the end of the peace process. The process is in trouble, we cannot continue this way. We are not interested in a "phony process."

Will Prime Minister Netanyahu hold fast on Palestinian reciprocity? I have doubts. Again he is talking about amorphous "creative solutions." Judging by his "creative solutions" in the Hebron Accord, there is every reason to suspect that they are "creative fig leaves" rather than real solutions.

Recently Netanyahu claimed to solve the problem of the third redeployment by sending it to an American-Palestinian-Israeli committee. Will he try to resolve the Palestinian compliance issue by establishing yet another special committee?

No matter what the structure of such a committee, the American presence would make the Clinton administration the judge of PA

compliance. And with Clinton scoring the test, Arafat can be certain to get an automatic passing grade.

Consider four major issues: illegal weapons and militias, the size of the Palestinian police and extradition.

While some incurable optimists won't worry until they are used, there is every indication that the PA has many illegal weapons including anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles. Of course there are those who don't really care if Arafat is armed to the teeth. "Aren't we?" Mossy Raz, political secretary of Peace Now, told me.

Last week Yossi Beilin provided us with the opportunity to appreciate just how serious all this illegal equipment is when he released his back-to-back plan for the withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon. The plan has a startup cost of over \$1 billion to protect a shallow northern border from "small cells from various organizations" equipped with anti-tank missiles, mortars and katyusha rockets. Arafat's army has the same kind of equipment except that instead of "small cells" he has a full blown army.

The Clinton administration may want to ignore this problem. Israel can't afford to. The Palestinian Authority claims that they have less than 24,000 uniformed policemen bearing arms. The tens of thousands of other able-bodied Palestinians who are employed by

the police, they explain, are simply being kept off the streets.

If the PA is really looking for a way to handle this unemployment they can put people to work for the benefit of the Palestinian people in the ministries of Public Works or Housing.

But that's not what's going on. Those tens of thousands of extra men aren't building the autonomy — they are preparing for war.

Defenders of the Palestinian Authority's refusal to honor its obligation to hand over wanted terrorists to Israel claim that the PA's quickie trials relieve them of this obligation since the Oslo Agreements preclude the extradition of suspects for trial on charges they have already faced — what might be termed a "double jeopardy escape clause." But Israel's case for the extradition of wanted terrorists remains solid.

Some of the terrorists on the list were never tried by the PA so the "escape clause" doesn't apply. The rest were typically subject to quickie State Security Court trials which, as the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights (LAW), noted in a January 19 press release, have no legal standing. But even if one accepts the validity of the quickie trials, the "escape clause" is surmountable.

As Prof. Eliahu Haron of the Hebrew University, a specialist in criminal law, recently told me, "If someone carried out several

crimes via the same act it would be possible to try him for the different crimes and there would be nothing preventing the courts from trying the person again."

But are all of these legalistic arguments for what is basically a political problem? After all, PA defenders say, the Palestinians could never extradite someone to Israel.

But they do. In fact, just last week Palestinian police honored an Israeli extradition request by handing over two Nazareth residents suspected of murdering an Israeli Arab, Samar Daniel. The suspects were hiding out with relatives in Kalkilya.

So it isn't that the PA can't stomach the idea of handing their brothers over to Israeli justice. The problem is that Yasser Arafat has yet to truly make the decision that he wants peace with the Jewish state. If that were the case there would be no difference between extraditing the suspected murderers of Samar Daniel or David Boim.

Arafat doesn't fear Hamas militarily or politically. He certainly has the military capability and polls consistently show that less than 12% of Palestinians favor Hamas and Islamic Jihad combined.

Instead Arafat preserves the violence option with Hamas as his partner.

Yes, this is tough talk. But we have to be as tough about peace as we are about war.

Wishful thinking and artful dodging simply won't do the job.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEIR YASSIN

Sir, — I was astonished to read Gary M. Katz's letter "Historical revisionism" (March 24), in which Katz denied that what happened at Deir Yassin in 1948, almost precisely fifty years ago, was a massacre, dismissing it as "Arab propaganda."

This claim is truly astonishing — since at the time itself, the official Jewish leadership under David Ben-Gurion fully recognized the horrifying fact that a massacre had indeed taken place and sharply condemned the massacre for what it was (though it failed to punish perpetrators).

It is strange to find an Israeli fifty years later trying to deny that terrible historical fact which is one of the worst blots on our history. This really is historical

revisionism! Personally, I see nothing wrong with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook laying a wreath at the memorial erected by survivors of that massacre. Indeed, it would do no harm and perhaps some good for one of our leaders to lay a wreath on the same memorial at the fiftieth anniversary of the Deir Yassin Massacre.

Such a symbolic act could do something for the true reconciliation (as opposed to hair-splitting over percentages and legalisms) which is so evidently lacking in the present Israeli-Palestinian relations.

RAMAT GAN.

TZVI GOLDBERG

RACIST SLURS

Sir, — Although my wife and I always read exhaustively every item on your paper, as a matter of principle we always and religiously skip the site of "confluence" between the articles by Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg, and Oleg's cartoons.

Unfortunately, in your March 5 issue, we could not avoid the outtake to Dan and Eisenberg's article, "He's a general," which depicted the whole French nation as vipers. I'm sure, that if in any place in the

world some heinous antisemitic would describe Jews as vipers, then the same gentlemen would denounce them loudly and justifiably so.

The Jerusalem Post should apologize to the French embassy in Israel, and the French people in general, for such gratuitous racist slurs.

ISAIAH GLUZMAN

Kibbutz Ein Dor.

POOR PR

Sir, — Israel has little cause to rejoice at the agreement signed by Kofi Annan and Saddam Hussein. It is inherently flawed and its inspection provisions are cumbersome enough to provide a multitude of loopholes.

However, Israel's immediate concern must be the mounting campaign to force the acceptance of a dangerously one-sided deal with the Palestinians.

The bogus allegation that the US and the UN applied double standards in the Iraqi crises, has gained wide acceptance and the pressure on Israel will now begin to tell.

Therefore, Israel must show a greater understanding for public relations and go on the offensive.

So far, its government has sat on its hands. What should have been done and it is not too late to do this now, is to initiate a campaign in the Western media, pointing out that Israel had nothing to do with Iraq's decimation of the Kurds, invasion of Kuwait or its attack on Iran. Nor is it connected with the massive massacres in Algeria, the civil war in Sudan, the anti-government violence in Egypt and generally the appalling and endemic turbulence in the Islamic world.

It is no good being reticent in enumerating specifically this state of affairs. It patently exists quite independently of that little local difficulty, the Palestinian problem.

LIONEL BLOCH

Surrey, England.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 6, 1933, The Palestine Post reported that Germany banned Jewish ritual slaughter. The exodus of tens of thousands of Jews had ceased temporarily as a consequence of new passport restrictions. Jewish notaries were requested to give up their posts.

50 years ago: On April 6, 1948,

The Palestine Post reported that Mishmar Haemek fought bitter battles, beating back thousands of Arab attackers.

At the UN the United States proposed a 15-point plan for a trusteeship over Palestine, with the UN as the administering authority, until the Jews and Arabs agree on a form of Government.

25 years ago: On April 6, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that Israeli reporters in Stockholm mounted a steady offensive against the visiting Soviet prime minister Alexei Kosygin at a press conference he held here. Mr. Kosygin accused the Israelis of insolence.

Alexander Zvielli

مكتبة النخيل

Taking Offense

Perceptions and Facts In Sexual Harassment

By LAURA MANSNERUS

PAULA CORBIN JONES cast herself as a woman not just discriminated against but damaged. She was "bawling" and "squalling" after her encounter with Bill Clinton, her sister said, and seven years after that infamous day in the Excelsior Hotel, in one therapist's opinion, Ms. Jones still suffered from "sexual aversion."

It sounded like lawsuit material to many people. When a Federal district judge ruled last week that it was not, John W. Whitehead, president of the conservative group that pays Ms. Jones's attorneys, protested: "Is this judge saying that a man can expose himself to a woman, ask for oral sex and put his hand up her crotch and all the while she is saying no, that a woman would have no recourse in such a situation?"

Well, she might, but not before most courts. Judge Susan Webber Wright's dismissal of Ms. Jones's sexual harassment case is an illustration of how courts feel about litigants' feelings. Even if Ms. Jones was as distressed as she said she was, the judge said, that could not make her harassment claim into, literally, a Federal case. What matters is evidence.

Sexual harassment law has never fit easily into a judicial system that favors objective standards and demands facts that can be sifted and weighed. In a harassment case, that means employee performance ratings, sick leave, psychiatrists' bills. That means witnesses and documents that a total stranger in a black robe can evaluate years after the fact.

Subjective vs. Objective

But many lawyers and women's advocates note that in harassment cases, that kind of evidence often doesn't exist. The encounters at issue are seldom witnessed or recorded. More important, they are usually defined not so much by facts as by interpretations of gestures, conversations, gestures and context. So sexual harassment law demands that subjective feelings must be translated into objective facts.

Courts have always had trouble making rules about sex. In sexual harassment cases, the courts have had to distinguish between unfettered consent and grudging consent, between threat and suggestion, between average sensibilities and peculiar sensibilities.

The language of sexual harassment law deploys terms like "unwelcome," "pervasive" and "hostile environment" that try to zero in on subjective feelings objectively. The Supreme Court has said that the question is how a supposedly hostile environment "would reasonably be perceived." The one doing the perceiving is the hypothetical "reasonable person," though no one, including lawyers and judges, knows just who this is. Such vagaries drive employers seeking to avert sexual-

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The Atlantic Slave Trade

On Both Sides, Reason for Remorse

By HOWARD W. FRENCH

FROM the moment the White House announced that President Clinton would stop at Senegal's Gorée Island, one of this continent's most famous monuments to the Atlantic slave trade, a polemic was re-launched in the United States and in much of Africa over how and indeed whether Mr. Clinton should apologize for the centuries-long capture and sale into bondage of millions of Africans.

For some, the very idea of an apology was offensive. Weren't Africans engaging in slavery themselves well before the first Europeans came and carried off their first human cargoes? Didn't African chiefs themselves conduct razzias, or slaving raids, on neighboring tribes and march their harvest to the shores for sale?

For others, though, the Atlantic trade in Africans was one of the greatest crimes humanity has known, and remains one that has never been properly acknowledged. "The Holocaust was certainly a great tragedy, but it only lasted a few short years," said Joseph Ndiaye, the curator of the Maison des Esclaves, the featured stop on Mr. Clinton's trip to Gorée. "We never stop hearing about the Holocaust, but how often do we dwell

on the tragedy that took place here over 350 years; a tragedy that consumed tens of millions of lives?"

In the end, an appropriately solemn Mr. Clinton stopped short of an outright apology for America's part in the slave trade, finding other ways to express his regret as he focused on the future. That Mr. Clinton so artfully chose to sidestep African slavery's long history should have come as no surprise to anyone familiar with its cruel and complicated details. Even today, few subjects are so prone to passionate disagreement. As ever, people from each leg of the triangular Atlantic trade — Europe, Africa and the Americas — still use the slave experience as a vacant screen upon which they project their own misperceptions and justifications.

The Colonial View

In the United States, the conservative columnist Patrick Buchanan recently echoed a sentiment heard often from whites who resent attempts to make them feel guilty for slavery: "When Europeans arrived in sub-Saharan Africa, the inhabitants had no machinery and no written language. When the Europeans departed, most of them by 1900, they left behind power stations, telephones, telegraphs, railroads, mines, plantations, schools, a civil service, a police force and a treasury."

Even disregarding the wildly benign view of Europe's colonial legacy, many historians say Mr. Buchanan's assumptions — of a savage continent being blessed with the gift of European civilization — are as erroneous as they are widespread. Early European travelers to West Africa, in fact, found societies that by many measures, from commonly available technology to general living standards, were not so different from home.

"The smelting of iron and steel in West Africa was similar to that in Europe in the 13th century, before the advent of power driven by the water wheel," wrote Hugh Thomas, the author of "The Slave Trade" (Simon & Schuster, 1997). "Senegambia had iron and copper industries, and the quality of African steel approached that of Toledo before the 15th century."

It would be dishonest to lay all of Africa's subsequent problems on the slave trade. But most experts do not doubt that the forces unleashed by Europe's demand for slaves, gold and other African goods radically destabilized societies that were embarking on their own path toward development, and laid waste to whole regions of this continent. "The discussion of how Africa became what it did subsequent to 1500 very quickly becomes an argument over what the slave trade did to the continent,"

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Unqualified to Live

The contest for donated organs leaves many on the sidelines.

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg

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Paul Bowling/Mediasource

On Safari

This President did not dine on elephant heart.

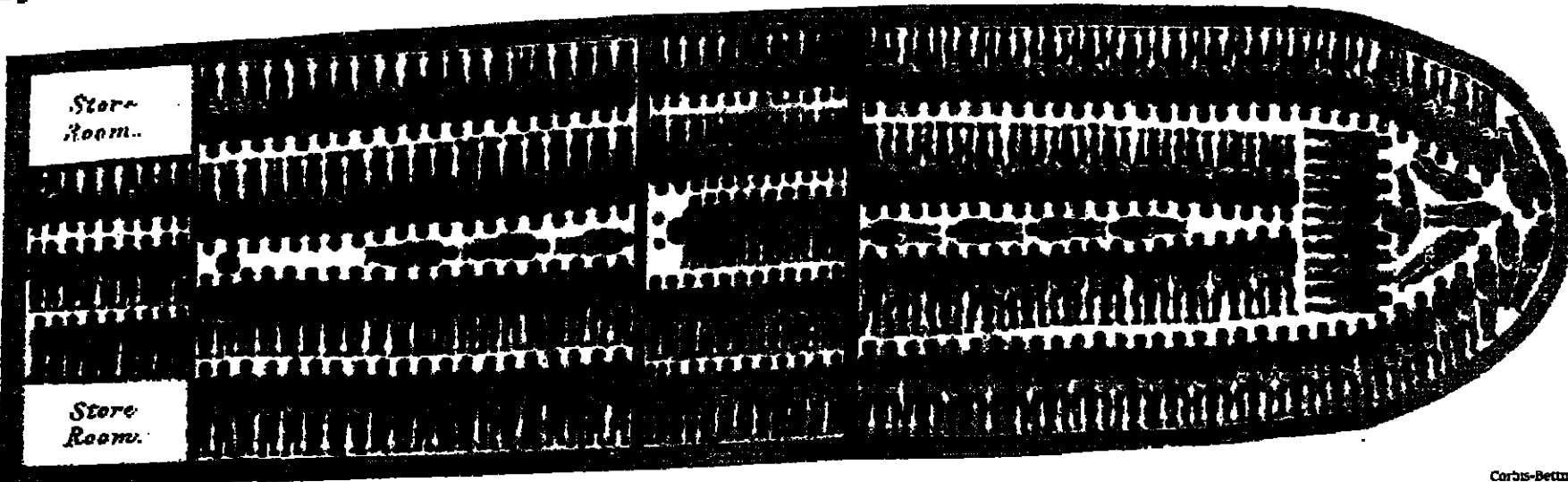
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April Fools

Russians wonder, just what is Boris Yeltsin up to?

By Michael R. Gordon

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The lower deck of a slave ship, in a 19th century lithograph; the slaves were packed so tightly they could breathe only with difficulty, according to a doctor of the time.

Ideas & Trends

Drugs That Deliver More Than Originally Promised

By GINA KOLATA

SCIENTISTS talk about the new age of rational drug design, and it leads many people to think there are few surprises left. Researchers know exactly what they want — drugs that consist of molecules that will snap into their targets like Lego blocks.

But as the story of Viagra, Pfizer's new impotency drug, shows, even the best-laid plans can go awry. And when they do, a company can hit a jackpot.

The drug, recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration, creates or enhances erections. Pfizer only tested the drug in men who had problems obtaining or maintaining erections. But some medical experts predict that Viagra will make any man's erection last longer. And many of the experts expect that studies now begun with women will show that Viagra will also help them become aroused and lubricated.

Yet Pfizer scientists originally had no thought of developing a sex drug. Viagra the wonder drug was born only by chance and by a coincidence of scientific discoveries.

The story began in 1991 when Dr. Solomon Snyder, a neurobiologist at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, discovered that nitric oxide, a common and short-lived gas, transmits signals between

nerve cells. The gas itself dissipates so fast that the only way to see which nerves might use it was to look for the enzyme at the tips of nerve cells that produced it.

"We looked all over the body," Dr. Snyder said. He found that nerve cells in the brain used the gas — and so did those in the penis.

Eureka

Dr. Snyder and his colleagues published a paper in the journal *Science* in 1992 discussing nitric oxide's role in the penis. They had taken male rats, stimulated the nerves in their penises electrically and demonstrated that the animals had erections. Then the scientists blocked the enzyme that churns out the gas, which prevented erections in the rats. Dr. Snyder did not include female rats in the study to see if a similar reaction occurred. It's one thing to look at erections in male rats, he said. But stimulated clitorises in female rats, he said, are harder to measure.

In the meantime, in Britain, Dr. Ian Osterloh was directing the development of Viagra, which was supposed to help men suffering chest pains from heart disease. But the drug did not work, and by 1992 Pfizer was about to consign it to the discard pile. But Dr. Osterloh saw the Snyder paper and had a flash of inspiration.

It seemed that some men who had taken

One medication for hypertension also grew hair on its users. Balding men flocked to it.

Viagra for their hearts reported an odd side effect — erections. Now Dr. Osterloh suddenly understood why. The gas initiated a series of biochemical steps that led to an erection. He realized that the drug just might be blocking an enzyme that kicks in and makes an erect penis go flaccid.

The rest is history. Not only did Viagra work for impotency but it was so effective that the F.D.A. approved it in only six months and without consulting an advisory committee of outside experts. There was no need to consult a committee, the agency said. There were no troubling questions, no significant side effects.

Viagra's newfound effectiveness was a surprise. But, in fact, there are a lot of stories like that.

Sometimes a company will develop a drug

for one purpose, submitting the drug to clinical tests and getting it approved for marketing for the new use. In other instances, a drug will be approved for one use but prescribed for something else entirely. Once a drug is on the market, doctors can prescribe it as they see fit — the F.D.A. does not intervene in the practice of medicine.

Chance

Dr. Louis Lasagna, the director of the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development at Tufts University School of Medicine, rattled off a list of drugs devised for one purpose and used for another. Among the more recent accidental discoveries are two cosmetic drugs, one approved for its new use and one not but prescribed for it anyway.

The first was Upjohn's minoxidil, marketed more than 20 years ago for the successful treatment of high blood pressure. Patients using it noticed that they began growing hair when they took it. In 1991, the F.D.A. approved its use as a hair restorer.

New Wrinkle

Then there is botulinum toxin, marketed as Botox by Allergan, Inc. of Irvine, Calif. It paralyzes muscles temporarily and won approval in 1988 for treating patients with drooping eyes and those whose eyelids involuntarily squint shut. But Dr. Jean Caruthers, a Canadian dermatologist, noticed that patients who used it for its approved purposes were getting another benefit — their facial wrinkles were disappearing. Now Botox is used far more often to get rid of wrinkles than for its original use, the F.D.A. says.

But if Viagra lives up to expectations — and there are a lot of interested, aging baby boomers out there — no story of serendipitous drug discovery will match it.

It was not entirely chance, of course, that the drug's benefit was discovered. The science had to be ready, and Dr. Osterloh, the hero of the story, had to be alert and a need had to exist.

After all, Dr. Lasagna said, "chance favors only the prepared mind."

The Unlisted

Live and Let Die Over Transplants



John Wazney/Photo Researchers

A surgeon handles a scarce commodity, a human heart for transplant.

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

THE day Dr. Philip Bach met Sandra Jensen, more than 10 years ago, he knew that she would someday need a new heart and lung. Ms. Jensen had Down syndrome, which left her with a defective heart that was ruining her lungs. "I figured we'd carry her as long as possible," said Dr. Bach, a cardiologist in Sacramento, Calif., "and when the time came, we'd get her a heart-lung transplant."

The time came in 1985, when Ms. Jensen was 34. But when Dr. Bach tried to sign her up for a transplant, the medical centers at Stanford University and the University of California at San Diego rejected her sight unseen. The reason: low IQ. Doctors wouldn't risk wasting scarce organs on someone who might not be able to follow the complicated regimen of post-transplant drugs.

They picked the wrong woman to reject. Ms. Jensen, a lifelong advocate for the mentally disabled, was on hand when President George Bush signed the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990. She and her friends raised a ruckus. Both medical centers eventually relented, and she got her transplant at Stanford in 1996, although she died 16 months later of complications unrelated to her mental disability.

Ms. Jensen's experience offers an unsettling glimpse into the live-or-die decision-making that determines who gets a donated organ. That process is now under intense scrutiny in Washington. In a new Federal regulation published last week, the Department of Health and Human Services called for the current distribution system, in which donated organs are parceled out within narrow geographic areas, to be replaced with one allowing a wider sharing of organs with priority for the sickest patients.

Weeding Out

The new rule, intended to even out regional disparities in the time patients spend waiting, has created an uproar among transplant surgeons and their patients. The controversy, however, centers almost exclusively on those already listed. Unmentioned are the tens of thousands of people like Ms. Jensen who are quietly weeded out by doctors and hospitals before they ever get on the list.

"We love to fight as a society over who gets a transplant from the waiting list," said Dr. Arthur Caplan, a bioethicist and the author of "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" (Indiana University Press, 1988), a book about transplants. "What we are ashamed of asking is who gets on the waiting list. That is where the fiercest, toughest rationing takes place."

In 1993, roughly half of the 138,000 people who needed hearts, lungs, livers, kidneys and pancreases were listed for transplant, and fewer than one quarter of those received organs, estimated Dr. Roger Evans, a health policy analyst at the Mayo Clinic. Transplant centers, he said, are loath to disclose why they exclude patients but the reasons are many.

There is what Dr. Clive Callender, director

No hope for the hopeful: In the contest for donated organs, not everyone is allowed to compete.

of the transplant center at Howard University here, calls "the green screen." A new liver can cost as much as \$250,000, and most hospitals want evidence of insurance up front. Racial minorities, who are less likely than whites to have medical coverage, are thus less likely to receive a referral for transplant surgery, Dr. Callender said.

Nor does insurance guarantee a referral. Ruth Dmitrzak of Pittsburgh learned she had liver disease in 1980, but her doctors never suggested a transplant, her son, Gary, said. Last April, with his mother's health failing, he insisted that she be evaluated for a new liver. The University of Pittsburgh accepted Mrs. Dmitrzak as a candidate but later took her off the list when she grew sicker. She died in December, at 67 years old.

Those who do get referred undergo physical and psychological evaluation. The Government, in its new regulation, is demanding

uniform criteria for determining transplant prospects. Standards now vary from hospital to hospital.

Doctors are reluctant to transplant organs into someone with a complicated illness, fearing the patient will not survive. Most transplant centers also require "family support" — a network of people who can help patients through the complicated and tedious recovery.

Ethical Dilemmas

For the surgeons, nurses, psychiatrists and social workers performing these evaluations, the ethical dilemmas are endless. Should alcoholics, whose livers have been destroyed after years of hard drinking, be put on the list for new livers? Most transplant surgeons say yes — if the patient has not had a drink for at least six months.

What about people who try to kill themselves by overdosing on Tylenol, which causes acute liver failure? "We try to avoid it like the plague," said Dr. Charles Miller, director of transplantation at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. "But if it's an adolescent, what do you do?"

There is heated debate about whether felony prisoners deserve a spot on the list. Some transplant programs exclude them because they might not participate in followup care — an argument that Dr. James S. Levenson, a professor of psychiatry, medicine and surgery at the Medical College of Virginia, says is specious, given that prisoners are relatively easy to find.

Age discrimination is another contentious issue. At Mt. Sinai, Dr. Miller said, the standard is physiological age; an otherwise healthy 75-year-old can get a new liver. At Stanford University, the age cutoff for lungs is 60. "If we had all the organs in the world, we would transplant everybody," said Dr. James Theodore, medical director of the medical center's heart and lung transplant center. "But we are faced with — the term I use is triage."

Dr. Theodore supervised the team that first rejected, then accepted, Ms. Jensen. In the wake of her transplant, Stanford no longer turns away mentally disabled people without first examining them. "We rejected her out of hand, based on a label," Dr. Theodore said. "That was wrong, and I'm willing to admit that."

What Goes Up May Keep Going Up

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

THE Dow Jones industrial average passed another impassable barrier, rising above 9,000 for a while on Friday, the first time that had ever happened. Each time the Dow has racked up another thousand points, there has been no shortage of experts warning that stock prices cannot keep going up like this. But they do. And as the market goes through one barrier after another, even the Cassandras, having been burned too often, bone up on the rationale for a rising Dow.

"We are in a financial mania where emotions overwhelm rational thinking," said Henry Kaufman, the Wall Street economist and money manager who, unwilling to succumb to the optimism, has lightened his own stock portfolio. "What keeps stock prices going up is the emotional involvement that so many people have in stock prices going up."

Teflon Dow

Even the nation's most famous nay-sayers have fallen silent. No longer does Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, warn of irrational exuberance. If anything, he has been quite optimistic about the American economy lately. And while Warren Buffett, a folk hero among stockholders, had stated last year that stocks may be overpriced, he now says they are not. But Mr. Buffett also says he has difficulty finding stocks worth buying.

"The whole thing is so extraordinary that the bears are exhausted, and they have shut up," said Peter L. Bernstein, a New York economist and consultant. "We can make up explanations about profits and interest rates to explain why the market is rising, but the real reason is that there is no compelling reason to sell. The Dow has gotten so high that even if it dropped by 20 percent, many people who have bought stock would still be ahead."

The Dow passed 6,000 in the fall of 1996 and 7,000 last spring. It broke 8,000 briefly in June and July and then rose decisively above 8,000 in early January, despite the Asian crisis. The 9,000 breakthrough came Friday morning, with the Dow getting as high as 9,030 before falling back and finally losing 3.2 points on the day, closing at 8,983. Again, bad news did not seem to matter. The Labor Department's unexpectedly weak March employment report — the unemployment rate ticked up last month to 4.7 percent — failed to move the stock market.

For some true optimists, like Bruce Steinberg, chief economist at Merrill Lynch, stock prices are rising because the

United States economy, with its strong recent growth, healthy profits, low inflation, low unemployment and low interest rates, "is the best it has ever been in history." For the less sanguine, the explanations of why the market is doing so well shift with the seasons.

Better Than Bonds

Until recently, the big explanation had centered on profits. They were growing and the forecasts were for more growth ahead. Naturally, stock prices responded by rising, every analyst said. But profit growth slowed in the fourth quarter, and now attention has shifted to interest rates. They are low, and they are likely to remain low, which make stocks seem a far better way to make money than bonds and bank CDs, with their very low yields.

"People say, 'Gee, why buy bonds, we'll buy something else,' and that something else is stocks," said Joel Prakken, a partner at Macroeconomics Advisers Inc., a forecasting and consulting company in St. Louis.

Other reasons are thrown in. Confident

The Dow went where no Dow has gone before.

consumers are spending, and demand for American goods is strong, not only at home, but increasingly abroad, except for Asia. Others say the slowdown in profit growth is temporary and probably mis-measured; in any case, by summer profits will quicken again. And then there is the widely held view that every dip in the Dow is an opportunity to buy and profit from the next rise. "Since 1987, people have found that every time the market sells off, it becomes a buying opportunity," Mr. Bernstein said.

No Predictions

Still, Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Bernstein are nervous. For them stock prices are overvalued. Even some bulls hold this view, among them Byron Wien, managing director of domestic investment strategies at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Company. Mr. Wien had predicted early this year that the Dow would reach 9,000. Now he says it won't go any higher.

"I am not raising my target," he said, "at least not at this time."



Boom times in the stock market pay for rare wines and wretched excess.

The World

Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures



The Clintons elephant-spotting on the banks of the Chobe River in Botswana last week.



Teddy Roosevelt and one of eight elephants he dispatched during his 11-month African safari.

The terms huge appetite and ambition apply to both men. One pioneered activist, progressive American government while the other kept it on life support. But Teddy Roosevelt and Bill Clinton part company when it comes to African safaris. Check the contrasts between

this President's 90's-kind-a nature outing in Botswana last week and T. R.'s blood-drenched, 11-month expedition across East Africa in 1909-10, as the rough-riding ex-President geared up for another charge at the White House. You could call this not-so-woolly vs. Bully!

	BILL	TED
TRANSPORT	Sport utility vehicles.	Train, horseback.
COMPANION	His wife, Hillary, who wrote "It Takes a Village."	His 19-year-old son, Kermit, who got tips on killing beasts from Dad.
WEAPONRY	Binoculars.	A veritable arsenal, including an Army Springfield rifle and a double-barreled elephant gun.
LIONS	Saw a mother playing with her cute cubs: "At one point she even had one of the cubs' tails in her mouth. They were playing with it back and forth."	Blasted two lion cubs in the bush before realizing neither was a big cat: "Each was badly wounded, and we finished them off."
HIPPOS	Listened to a symphony of hippo snorting and gave the thumbs-up gesture.	"Usually there is no sport in hippo shooting." Killed seven of them anyway.
ELEPHANTS	"I was kind of jealous that the Republicans had appropriated such a nice animal as their symbol."	Killed eight of them, then wrote, "It would be a veritable and most tragic calamity if the lordly elephant... should be permitted to vanish from the face of the earth."
MEAN CUISINE	Sampled sliced zebra, cubed chunks of impala in brown sauce, sautéed crocodile, sliced gila.	"I toasted slices of elephant's heart on a pronged stick before the fire, and found it delicious. ... My men feasted on oryx and eland, while I reserved the tongues and tenderloins for myself."
THE TALLY	"We've seen probably 20 or 30 different kinds of birds. ... an impala, a baboon and three elephants." Expressed concern over a wounded water buffalo.	Bagged nearly 300 animals, mostly for museum specimens and meat: "We did not kill a tenth, nor a hundredth, part of what we might have killed had we been willing."

Sources: Media pool report on the Clinton safari, the White House, "The Works of Theodore Roosevelt, Volume IV: African Game Trails" (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1926) and "Life Histories of African Game Animals, Volume I" (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914).

Caitlin Leverette/The New York Times

Searching for the Method In Czar Boris's Madness

By MICHAEL R. GORDON

THE big story in the Russian press last week was that President Boris N. Yeltsin had dismissed his Cabinet to clear the way for a secret successor. The future leader is kept at Gorky-9, a secluded compound outside Moscow, where he is allowed to exercise out of the public view.

The scoop in the newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomlets* turned out to be nothing more than an April 1 spoof. But given the swirl of rumors surrounding Mr. Yeltsin's Government shake-up on March 23, it is getting harder to tell the parodies from the real thing.

The startling fact about Mr. Yeltsin's firings and hirings is that even now nobody is quite sure what was behind them.

Russians may be the world's biggest conspiracy theorists, which is hardly surprising for a nation in which political intrigue is an art form. So guessing Mr. Yeltsin's motivation has become a national pastime.

It is more than a parlor game for the Russian tycoons, market reformers and Communists who want the public to believe their influence is on the rise: It is the ultimate exercise in spin control. It seems that all of Moscow wants to be seen as the hidden hand behind Mr. Yeltsin's seemingly inexplicable moves.

As Sergei Baburin, the vice speaker of the Parliament, put it, the key question is, "Who did what?" Here are some of the most popular theories.

The Man Who Would Be King This is the dominant theory and is favored by the many detractors of the former Prime Minister, Viktor S. Chernomyrdin. It holds that Mr. Yeltsin fired Mr. Chernomyrdin for acting too much like a President-in-waiting. Vice President Al Gore played an unwitting role in Mr. Chernomyrdin's undoing by treating him as a virtual head of state during recent talks in Washington.

Money Talks Boris Berezovsky, one of Russia's most powerful and notorious tycoons, has been promoting this hypothesis, which holds that he and his fellow moguls tightened their control over the Kremlin. They persuaded Mr. Yeltsin to dismiss Mr. Chernomyrdin because they are looking for a standard-bearer who has a better chance to win the 2000 Presidential election. Anatoly B. Chubais, the pro-reform Kremlin aide, was fired for failing to do their bidding.

The Kremlin Kamikaze Many Russian reformers insist it was Mr. Chubais who played the key role in the shake-up. They maintain that Mr. Chubais, having steered the economy through its rockiest period, was ready to leave for the private sector. But to preserve the Government's reforms, he agreed to leave only on the condition that Mr. Chernomyrdin and Anatoly S. Kulikov, the recently fired hard-line Interior Minister, be dismissed.

Scapgoating The Communists hold that Mr. Yeltsin was worried about swelling social unrest over unpaid wages and tried to head off an explosion by

blaming the nation's problems on a handful of top aides and firing them before a national protest set for this Thursday.

Tough Love A far less plausible case is made by Mr. Chernomyrdin's backers, who insist that the firings were part of an elaborate ruse by Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin to enable the former Prime Minister to distance himself from Government corruption and concentrate on running for President.

Boris Is Losing It Many of Mr. Yeltsin's critics maintain that the President reacted impulsively to rampant speculation that his health is failing and fired his Cabinet in a desperate effort to remind the nation that he is still in control. A variation: Mr. Yeltsin has lost his interest in governing but gets an adrenaline rush from real or manufactured political crises.

There is probably an element of truth in many of these theories. A leader who has taken to calling himself Czar Boris was almost certainly uncomfortable with Mr. Chernomyrdin's efforts to position himself as a successor.

It is also reasonable to think that Mr. Berezovsky encouraged the President to get rid of Mr. Chernomyrdin and Mr. Chubais, but it's unlikely that the tycoon was the mastermind. Mr. Yeltsin's new choice for Prime Minister, Sergei N. Kiriyenko, is not in Mr. Berezovsky's pocket. It was Mr. Kiriyenko who set terms for the coming auction of the state-owned Rosneft oil company that were not in Mr. Berezovsky's favor. Mr. Berezovsky's choice for Prime Minister is believed to have been Ivan Rybkin, who oversees relations with other former Soviet republics.

Mr. Chubais's stated desire to leave may also have influenced Mr. Yeltsin's decision. After all, Mr. Yeltsin likes to maintain a political balance among hard-liners and reformers within his administration. If Mr. Chubais decided to leave, it would be reasonable for Mr. Yeltsin to sack some of his former aide's adversaries.

But if Mr. Chubais were pulling all the strings, he should have been able to arrange a cushy landing for himself as chairman of the Government-controlled electricity monopoly, a position he has openly coveted. Mr. Kiriyenko recently said, however, that the former aide was not entitled to the chairmanship.

For all the political machinations, it is important not to overdramatize Mr. Yeltsin's moves. The vast majority of his top aides are being reappointed, including Foreign Minister Yevgeny M. Primakov, Defense Minister Igor D. Sergeev and a leading pro-reform aide, Boris Y. Nemtsov. The financial markets took the dismissal of the Cabinet calmly. The Communist-dominated Parliament is likely to approve Mr. Kiriyenko as Prime Minister after a little stroking and, perhaps, a few concessions by Mr. Yeltsin.

This, however, is just the beginning of two years of infighting leading up to new Presidential elections. And the elaborate game of musical chairs has not moved the country any closer to solving one of its most pressing problems: finding a successor to Mr. Yeltsin.

That is, unless Moskovsky Komsomlets was right after all, and he's living at Gorky-9.



In a recent public appearance in Moscow, President Boris N. Yeltsin looked pale and seemed disoriented.

Slavery and Remorse

Continued From Page 9

said John Reader, a fellow of the British Royal Anthropological Institute and author of "Africa, a Biography of the Continent." "Africa clearly would not have had an easy time even if there had not been an Atlantic slave trade," he wrote. "But one can easily imagine entirely different trajectories for the continent."

A cold look at the nature of the Atlantic slave trade makes it very difficult to overstate its impact.

Until recently, Africa's economic development has always been hindered by low population densities. Africa's population in 1500 has been estimated by some at 47 million. Over the next 350 years, between 10 and 15 million Africans were landed in chains in the New World, and 4 to 6 million more are thought to have died during their capture or the Atlantic crossing — a total of between 14 and 21 million people. History has seen few social disruptions on that scale.

In the end, however, many specialists in African history consider the process by which slavery worked to be as destructive as the sheer numbers involved.

Few African slaves were enslaved by Europeans themselves. Instead, massive slave raids, huge marches of captives from inland areas and continuous rivalries between coastal kingdoms and local ethnic groups were driven by demand for Europe's coveted goods — cloth and candles, grain, horses, spiced wine, pots and pans.

For centuries in Africa, ethical conventions had governed the taking and use of slaves, who in most cases resembled the serfs of Europe more than the chattel of the Americas. These suddenly dissolved.

"The trans-Atlantic slave trade vastly devalued human life compared to what existed virtually anywhere on the continent before," said the historian Basil Davidson. "Things were not a peaceful Garden of Eden in Africa beforehand. But all of the evidence combines to show that the level of civilization in pre-colonial Africa was degraded and depressed by the onset of widespread violence related to the slave trade."

And here one begins to touch upon one of the cruelest ironies of the slave trade and enter into an area that many Africans and African-Americans are often unaware of or uncomfortable confronting directly.

African slavery, albeit of a very different kind, began long before the arrival of Europeans, and continued well after slavery's abolition in the West. And the slavery of the Americas could never have approached the scale it attained without the active and widespread collaboration of Africans. Most troubling, perhaps, are how European perceptions of Africans and their behavior lent seeming moral acceptability to the commerce.

The free-for-all among African societies to capture slaves from their neighbors and rivals for sale to whites was deliberately stimulated by the Europeans who anchored offshore with their cloth and trinkets. And this same state of chaos comforted whites in their view of Africans as ignoble savages.

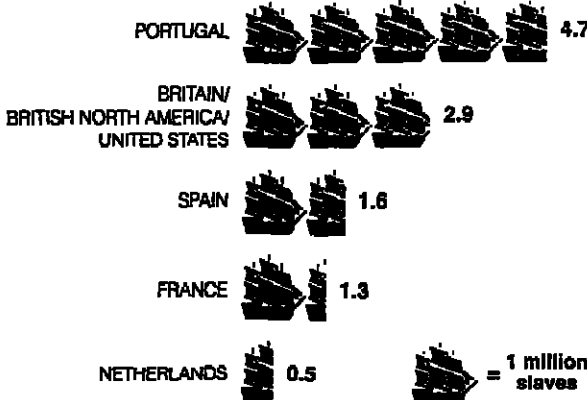
Today Africans and African-Americans may often share a common view of slavery as the evil work of whites. But the very notion of shared Africanness so commonplace today existed only in the minds of foreigners during the time of this trade. To Africans, their own divisions on ethnic and linguistic lines mattered far

The Atlantic Slave Trade

The number of Africans who were transported to the New World between 1520 and 1867 is estimated at 10 million to 15 million with an additional 4 million to 6 million perishing en route.

CARRIERS

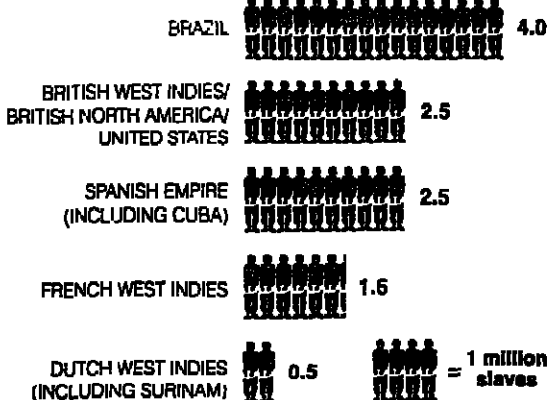
The leading slave traders.



Source: "The Slave Trade," by Hugh Thomas (Simon & Schuster)

DESTINATIONS

The main places to which slaves were delivered.



The New York Times

more. The lack of solidarity served, in the European mind, as another easy rationale for enslaving them.

Contrast this to the attitude Europeans took toward the New World's Indians. Recorded instances of Indians selling each other into plantation slavery are rare. Less than 100 years into the colonization of the New World, calls were spreading for the abolition of Indian slavery.

"The Indians were seen by and large as a people unknown to the ancients who had somehow remained innocent and noble," said David Brion Davis, the Sterling Professor of History at Yale University. "At the very same time, mariners going up and down the African coast spread tales of Africans as savage barbarians who sold slaves themselves."

The Nation

Dear Driver: Sober And Buckle Up

By MATTHEW L. WALD

TWO dangerous practices show up time and again as factors in fatal car crashes. One occurs in half the accidents and could be quickly remedied with equipment already in every car: unused seat belts. The other, present in 40 percent of fatal crashes, is far harder to recognize or remedy once the driver is behind the wheel: drinking.

But drunken driving gets nearly all the public and political attention.

Last week, a measure to toughen drunken driving laws nationwide stalled in Congress.

Drunken driving may be a hotter issue, but stricter seat belt laws could cut more deaths.

when the House Rules Committee voted to keep an amendment on the issue from coming to the floor during a debate over the Federal highway bill. The amendment, which had passed the Senate 62-to-32, would have set a national legal standard for impairment at a blood alcohol level of 0.08 percent. Most states now set the limit at 0.10 percent, although the New York Legislature, among others, is debating lowering that standard.

After the House committee vote, President Clinton, whose father was killed in a (nonalcohol-related) car crash, said in a statement, "Our country will not tolerate irresponsible acts that endanger our children and our nation."

Those words, however, could just as easily have applied to seat-belt use, but there is no serious movement in Washington or in state capitols toward stricter seat-belt laws, or even stricter enforcement of existing legislation.

There are laws in every state but New Hampshire requiring the use of seat belts, but in 36 states the police cannot write a ticket for failing to buckle up unless the

officer has pulled the car over for some other reason. Thus, in most states it is harder to enforce a seat-belt law than a law against littering.

Yet statistics suggest that more vigilant seat-belt use could cut traffic fatalities far more sharply than the lower blood alcohol standard. Drunken driving kills about 17,000 people a year, but the most eager supporters of the 0.08 standard said such a measure would save at most 600 lives a year.

The Stigma Question

The National Transportation Safety Board, by contrast, estimates that there would be about 10,000 fewer deaths a year if everyone wore seat belts, not just the two-thirds of passengers who wear them now. The number of serious injuries would also fall sharply.

So why hasn't the seat-belt issue caught on with the public and politicians?

For one thing, driving without seat belts doesn't carry the same stigma as drunken driving. There are no legions of mothers against unbelted driving prowling the halls of legislatures, no horror stories complete with prom photos or graduation pictures. In fact, the pattern of discussion on road safety is a lesson in real-world civility: drunken driving is an important issue because there is grassroots support for it, and seat belts are not because there is grassroots dislike.

Lobbying also helps shape the debate. Even as support from the liquor and restaurant industries helped block the 0.08 measure last week, corporate support for wearing seat belts — mostly from companies that assemble cars or build components like air bags — isn't enough to get laws passed or enforced.

Drawing Distinctions

Perhaps the main reason for the difference in legislative emphasis is that the public seems to draw a distinction between stupid and dangerous, and between the suicidal and the murderous — and it favors the freedom for people to be the former but not the latter.

"I think that's why you don't have this outcry," said Representative Nita M. Lowey, Democrat of New York, who was the main sponsor of the 0.08 standard. The unbelted threaten mostly themselves and their passengers, she said, but "if you drink yourself silly, it's the person in the next car who is going to die."



Betty Armstrong, a volunteer in a California Highway Patrol drunken-driving demonstration, registered 0.14 in a blood alcohol test.

Franklin D. Raines, the President's budget director, gave a more practical reason for focusing on drunken driving. "We believed we could get a bipartisan group together to support this," he said. "We're taking the opportunity that is available."

In fact, the effort to set a national blood alcohol standard is not dead; Representative Lowey said she would introduce a resolution after the Easter recess to instruct the members of the House conference committee to press for inclusion of the 0.08 clause. That would at least give the House a chance to vote on the issue.

And even if the 0.08 standard seems like a relatively small step toward reducing alcohol-related fatalities, studies show that after a state has passed such a law, the average score of all drivers on Breathalyzers tends to be lower. Thus, it would still serve a purpose, said Dr. James L. Nichols, acting associate administrator for traffic safety problems at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, by "creating this perception in America that it's not acceptable to get behind the wheel when you're impaired."

But so far, there is no widespread perception that it's unacceptable to get behind the wheel unbelted.

When to Say When

The amount one can drink before becoming impaired varies according to a number of factors. The chart shows levels of alcohol in the blood depending on sex, weight, number of drinks and how fast they are consumed. Levels over 0.08 grams of alcohol per 100 liters of blood — the limit being considered by the Federal Government — are highlighted.

One shot of distilled spirits, a glass of wine or 12 ounces of beer contain about the same amount of alcohol.

WOMEN											
Weight in pounds	115	145	175	205	235	265	295	325	355	385	415
Number of drinks	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
Time in hours	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT	0.06	0.12	0.18	0.24	0.30	0.36	0.42	0.48	0.54	0.60	0.66

MEN											
Weight in pounds	160	190	220	250	280	310	340	370	400	430	460
Number of drinks	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
Time in hours	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT	0.03	0.06	0.09	0.12	0.15	0.18	0.21	0.24	0.27	0.30	0.33

Source: Department of Transportation

The New York Times

Congress Likes It, Sometimes

Let's Hear It for the World!

By ERIC SCHMITT

IT'S been a rough few weeks for internationalism on Capitol Hill.

The House majority leader, Representative Dick Armey of Texas, is urging fellow Republicans to reject \$18 billion in new financing for the International Monetary Fund to use in future financial crises. House Republicans want to attach to the I.M.F. bill an anti-abortion provision that President Clinton opposes.

Congress is balking at paying \$1 billion in back dues the United States owes the United Nations. Representative Gerald Solomon, a New York Republican, said the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, should be "horse-whipped" for saying nice things about President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. There's even a bill in the House that would require Washington to pull out of the United Nations altogether.

As Representative Henry J. Hyde, a senior Republican from Illinois who supports the United Nations, put it last week: "We have a lot of conservatives who do not like foreign aid."

Except when it involves some of the lesser-known international organizations the United States belongs to, like the Universal Postal Union, the Bureau of International Expositions and the International Lead and Zinc Study Group.

Don't Mess

Call it selective isolationism.

Picking on the United Nations or the I.M.F. is one thing; public support for them is diffuse, the required commitments huge and the benefits largely intangible (some would say there are none). But mess with the esoteric organizations that provide tangible economic, scientific or health benefits for relatively little cost and lawmakers invite grief from the powerful domestic interests behind them.

"These organizations are about jobs here at home," said Senator Ernest F. Hollings, a South Carolina Democrat whose personal favorite, the 37-nation International Natural Rubber Organization (annual dues: \$234,000), benefits the American tire industry.



Militias rally against the U.N. Not all international groups are hated.

Through many of the groups — particularly the agricultural ones, like the International Office of the Vine and Wine — the United States promotes its exports by fighting unfair tariffs.

Three years ago, the State Department tried to save money by withdrawing from some of the lower-priority organizations. Officials succeeded with a few, including the Pan American Railway Congress Association.

But when the Government tried to pull out of the 42-nation International Cotton Advisory Committee (annual dues: \$203,000), senators from cotton-growing states rescinded the decision and kept the United States in the group, which tracks statistics on cotton production, trade and consumption.

"All these people have constituencies who defend them," said Senator Judd Gregg, a New Hampshire Republican who has tried, and mostly failed, to end American membership in several groups, including the 53-country International Tropical Timber Organization (annual dues: \$143,000), which helps American furniture makers that import tropical wood.

Even with some of these groups, Congress tries to have it both ways. When lawmakers last year approved \$85 million less than the State Department requested to pay dues to nearly 50 international organizations, officials had to rite partial I.O.U.'s.

That didn't go over well with the 35-nation International Copper

Study Group (annual dues: \$60,000), which threatened to force the United States to forfeit the chairman's position and its voting rights altogether if Washington did not pay \$9,950 in arrears.

Grumbling

American industry is also grumbling about arrears to groups affiliated with the United Nations. The United States owes \$105 million in back dues to the Food and Agriculture Organization, which helps set international standards in processed foods and agriculture, and \$36 million to the World Health Organization, which guides health standards.

In a recent letter to Speaker Newt Gingrich, the Grocery Manufacturers of America warned that if back dues at the two groups go unpaid, the United States will lose its leadership leverage, and "Congress will run the real risk of subjecting U.S. business and agriculture to standards to which we do not and cannot conform."

For Administration officials, the challenge is to muster support for the United Nations like that enjoyed by its tinier, more specialized brethren.

It's not easy, especially with this Congress. "There are certain obligations and responsibilities we have as a superpower," said Princeton N. Lyman, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. "But for some people, that's hard to accept."

Perceptions and Facts In Sexual Harassment

Continued From Page 9

harassment litigation not only up the wall but into modes of extreme caution. That caution reached its apogee, perhaps, when the Miller Brewing Company in 1993 dismissed an executive for describing a slightly racy "Seinfeld" episode to a female colleague. He sued and won millions.

The road to confusion has been paved with convoluted and nuanced cases. The Supreme Court's leading sexual harassment decision, a 1986 case brought by a woman who had had a long and complicated sexual relationship with her supervisor, established that a "hostile work environment" could constitute sexual harassment. But it also made clear that a key factor was what the plaintiff had signaled to men and what behavior she should reasonably expect in return.

With such layers and contingencies, sexual harassment claims are unlike claims of workplace discrimination based on race or age. In these cases, intentions and perceptions are, as a rule, fairly unambiguous.

"Sexual harassment victims are by far the victims with the most lasting injury and the most tentative ability to pursue the litigation," said Jonathan Turley, a law professor at George Washington University. "Much of the injury can only be defined as emotional distress or similar claims."

For a time, as litigation multiplied in the early 1990's, the application of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, covering sexual harassment in the workplace, seemed to expand, too. In 1993, the Supreme Court made a ruling that initially encouraged women's advocates.

The plaintiff, Teresa Harris, worked at an equipment rental company for a man who, among many other things, addressed her as "a dumb-ass woman," suggested that the two of them go to the Holiday Inn to negotiate a pay raise and ordered her and other female employees to fish coins from his front pants pocket. The issue was whether Ms. Harris could sue without demonstrating tangible psychological harm.

The Court held that she could (though Ms. Harris eventually settled out of court). Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for a unanimous Court that the statute "comes into play before the harassing conduct leads to a nervous breakdown," and can apply even when the alleged offense "does not seriously affect employees' psychological well-being."

But even where it does affect psychological well-being, the simple assertion of damage is not, in itself, enough to make a case. Judge Wright assumed only for the sake of argument that Mr. Clinton was a harasser and that Ms. Jones was as aggrieved as she said she was. But she found Ms. Jones's evidence wanting.

The 'Reasonable Person'

She wrote that Ms. Jones's perceptions of "hostility and animus" on the part of her supervisors "are not sufficient to demonstrate any adverse employment action." And she dismissed the statement from "the purported expert with a Ph.D. in education in counseling" who said Ms. Jones suffered from sexual aversion. In sum, the judge said, Ms. Jones's claim fell "far short" of what the law required to put it before a jury.

The Jones suit, of course, is just one case in which the sum of the evidence was just not promising enough. The Supreme Court has left room for many sexual harass-

ment claims, and perhaps for claims based on a single incident, if it is egregious enough. And this term the Court is considering the question of whether an employee propositioned and threatened by a supervisor can bring suit even if she never suffered any retaliation.

The law's skepticism about emotional grievances is apparent in the decline of the quaintly named offense of "outrage," also called "intentional infliction of emotional distress" — which Ms. Jones claimed to have suffered. Such claims are discouraged in most jurisdictions, and the leading treatise on tort law says plaintiffs are "required to be hardened to a certain amount of rough language and to occasional acts that are definitely inconsiderate and unkind."

And the offense is judged by a demanding standard: as the Arkansas courts have defined it, Judge Wright wrote, "outrage" is "emotional distress so severe that no

In harassment law, evidence is harder to come by than hurt feelings.

reasonable person could be expected to endure it."

When courts apply the "reasonable person" standard itself, many experts in discrimination law ask: Who is this person anyway? Women's advocates point to studies showing that women and men differ widely on what constitutes harassment, and there is ample disagreement even among feminists as to what a reasonable victim would do or feel.

"Who is this average female?" Susan Estrich, a law professor at the University of Southern California, wrote in a 1991 law review article. "Sometimes, she is constructed out of whole cloth by the court." This hypothetical woman, Ms. Estrich argued, is not "hypersensitive to conduct by men," and yet complains promptly and forcefully because failure to do so is evidence that the conduct was not very offensive. Ms. Estrich said a plaintiff's problems are compounded by the requirement that she prove sexual advances were "unwelcome."

Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, said last week that for practical purposes nothing much has changed since the pre-Anita Hill era. "We're still dealing with the nuts-or-sluts defense, that women either made up or wanted these advances," she told an interviewer.

The most radical response to this problem is the one adopted by Catharine MacKinnon, a law professor at the universities of Chicago and Michigan, who is credited with proposing 20 years ago that sexual harassment is a form of employment discrimination. Ms. MacKinnon's hypothesis, influential if hardly agreed to by the courts, was that there was no such thing as consensual sex between a man with power and a woman without power.

This is effectively the view that many employers have taken in policing their own workplaces. It is, after all, easier than going to court.

Sometimes. At least it takes some of the guesswork out of sexual harassment.

ECONOMY

Inside Intel, The Future is Riding on the Merced Chip

By JOHN MARKOFF

PALO ALTO, Calif.
THE Intel Corporation has been at the crossroads before.

Two decades ago, with great fanfare, the company introduced a new microprocessor heralded as the chip that would reshape computing's future. It did — but not in the way that Intel intended.

After six years in development, the i432 microprocessor became one of the great disaster stories of modern computing. A misguided effort to bridge the gap between hardware and software, the i432 ran 5 to 10 times more slowly than its competitor, the Motorola 68000, and was quickly withdrawn from the market.

Serendipity rescued Intel from that debacle. When executives realized that the project was in trouble, they rushed to staff a stopgap effort that became known as the 8086 chip. Two engineers took just three weeks to design it, and the 8086 was rushed into manufacturing in 1978, just a year after its conception.

From those humble and hurried roots came the computer chips that today power 85 percent of the world's PCs — not to mention one of the world's most desired and hard-charging stocks.

Now, to maintain its dominance of the chip business, Intel is again preparing to make a huge technological

leap — one that turns its back on the architecture of the 8086 and its progeny, up through today's Pentium processors. And given the volatility of the technology business, it is not an exaggeration to say that the future of Intel is very much at stake in how it manages the transition.

Next year, the chip maker will begin shipping its Merced microprocessor. Code-named for the river that flows through the Yosemite Valley, Merced is the first of a new generation of chips that will permit the company, the world's largest maker of semiconductors, to directly attack a market that so far has eluded it: the very high end of the computer industry, made up of the mainframes that run the operations of large corporations, the exploding world of Internet Web servers and the supercomputers and work stations used by scientists and engineers.

Intel is betting on a future in which the market for microprocessors is increasingly fragmented — and in which the company has a distinct offering for each fragment: the superfast Merced at the high end, a growing spectrum of styles of Pentiums in the PC market and the ARM microprocessor, recently acquired from the Digital Equipment Corporation, in the low-end market for consumer appliances. The notion is that high profit margins on Merced chips can offset increasingly narrow

margins in the competitive middle and lower reaches of the chip business.

"Intel's view is that as the market is getting more segmented, we're adapting our products to serve different applications," said Steve Smith, the Intel executive in charge of the Merced business.

But as the i432 disaster underscored, things do not always go as planned, even for the world's most admired companies. And there is a more troubling possibility, as well: By confining the Merced technology to the top end of the computer market, Intel may be vulnerable to competitors that will offer the same technology — at far lower costs — in other markets. If the next big wave in digital technology puts powerful computer brains in products like TV set-top boxes, smart telephones and hand-held computers — where Intel is weakest — the company's strategy with Merced could leave it beached.

Already there is evidence that Intel has largely been shut out of the market for set-top boxes, for example, and its chips have proved to be too expensive and power-hungry for cellular phones or hand-held computers. The ARM chip may offer the company a way to be competitive — but not with the monopoly pricing advantage it has enjoyed in the PC industry.

The worst-case analogy would be to I.B.M. In the mid-1980's, the computing titan seemed unassailable. But by attempting to control the PC industry in a way that protected its profitable mainframe business — in other words, by focusing on the high end of computing rather than the mainstream — I.B.M. in a few short years became a follower instead of the industry leader.

Few people are expecting Intel to meet a similar fate. "The Merced is going to have a huge impact on the computer industry," said Larry Smarr, director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications in Champaign, Ill. "The enormous volumes that Intel can generate will drive the current RISC microprocessors off the desktops over the next five years."

NOne has a better understanding of the pace of change in computing, and the risks inherent in each new generation of technology, than Andrew Grove, Intel's chairman and driving force.

"When a change in how some element of one's business is conducted becomes an order of magnitude larger than what that business is accustomed to, then all bets are off," he wrote in his 1996 best seller, "Only the Paranoid Survive" (Currency/Doubleday, \$27.50). "There's the wind and then there's a typhoon, there are waves and then there's a tsunami."

Merced has the potential to create that kind of computer industry tsunami, and Mr. Grove obviously believes he knows how to ride it: Cautiously.

Asked recently how long it would take for the chip to become the heart of the company's product line, he said: "It will be very slow. Not in the next five years. I don't see Merced appearing on a mainstream desktop inside of a decade."

There have been persistent industry rumors of a struggle within Intel over how aggressively the company should push the Merced technology into high-volume products. And Intel made similar statements in 1993, when it introduced the Pentium microprocessor. That chip, too, was supposed to be just for servers and high-end work stations, but the desktop market embraced it quickly. Today, Pentium chips have found their way into PCs that cost less than \$1,000, and Intel and its customers market them like cars or cigarettes.

Whatever the truth of reports of dissent — Mr. Smith acknowledged that Intel had "fought through" how to position Merced — the chip is almost certain to quickly reshape high-end computing, a more than \$60 billion market that until now has been dominated by International Business Machines, Sun Microsystems, Silicon Graphics, Digital Equipment and Hewlett-Packard.

Indeed, that reshaping began even before Merced was named, when Intel entered into an alliance with Hewlett-Packard, a Silicon Valley neighbor



John Crawford, left, an Intel chip architect, and Jerry Huck, a computer designer for Hewlett, led development of the Merced microprocessor.

with deep experience in high-performance computing, to develop a next-generation chip. The Intel-Hewlett alliance already appears so daunting that a year before Merced's scheduled debut, many of Intel's other competitors appear to be wavering.

Not only has the chip giant co-opted one of its fiercest competitors by allying with Hewlett-Packard, but Silicon Graphics has said that it plans to build computers based on Merced, raising questions about the future of its MIPS microprocessors in the supercomputer and work station markets.

Prospects for Digital's Alpha processor, meanwhile, are in doubt because the computer maker has been acquired by Compaq Computer, Intel's best customer.

Even Sun, famous in Silicon Valley for its iconoclasm, has indicated that it will develop a version of its Solaris operating system for Merced, leaving some analysts wondering whether the work station maker can continue to press forward with ultrafast versions of its SPARC chips.

GIVEN all that, analysts say that only I.B.M., with a business of \$20 billion to \$25 billion a year based on the Power PC family of processors, has the scale and semiconductor manufacturing capabilities to stand up to Intel. But even I.B.M., with the world's second-largest personal computer business, will remain one of Intel's best customers.

Few competitors are willing even to criticize Merced aloud, fearing Intel's pervasive influence in the computer industry.

"Sure, I think there are shortcomings in their design, but I'm not going to say so publicly," one Silicon Valley computer designer said. "That would be like walking around in Iraq before the Gulf war carrying an American flag with a bull's-eye on my back."

It is a remarkably different competitive landscape from the one five years ago, when Intel's competitors seemed on the verge of leaving the chip maker in the dust in performance. Then, I.B.M., Motorola and Apple Computer had just formed an imposing alliance, and new chips from other makers were much faster than Intel's 486 processor.

Though executives from Intel and Hewlett-Packard clearly are testy about apportioning the credit for Merced, the key role each company has played is clear: Intel has drawn on Hewlett's best computer design ideas and blended them with its unrivaled manufacturing prowess.

The chip represents Intel's first entry into the world of 64-bit processing, which gives computers the ability to process data much faster and to readily retrieve information from vast data bases. Its design is the most ambitious effort to date to overcome modern computing's most thorny obstacle: the inability to break clean from the old style of sequential computing, which solves problems one step after another, by pushing parallel computing into the industry mainstream.

During the 1980's, makers of scientific and engineering computers like Thinking Machines, Kendall Square Research, Ncube and Convex, in addition to Intel, made great strides in

up computing called "very long instruction word," or VLIW.

Its proponents pursued the idea of designing processors that were capable of executing many different instructions at once inside a single processor. To do this, they used a program known as a compiler — software that converts programmers' instructions into code that can be read by a computer — to sort the instructions and decide which ones could be run simultaneously. At Hewlett-Packard, VLIW became known as "Wide Word," and work on it percolated through the late 1980's and early 1990's.

EARLY in 1993, Hewlett-Packard decided that it did not have the resources to keep working on both advanced RISC designs and Wide Word. The company set up a "bake-off," with teams from each camp told to build a simulator — a software program that imitates a piece of hardware — to test their ideas.

The RISC team was headed by Jerry Huck, a computer designer who had come to Hewlett from graduate studies at Stanford University. The Wide Word group was led by Rajiv Gupta, a compiler expert who had a similar background in computer design from the California Institute of Technology.

The two groups were told that if the Wide Word design was not at least twice as fast, there was no reason to abandon RISC. As it turned out, the Wide Word group won handily.

By then, Mr. Worley had been urging for more than a year that Hewlett-Packard seek a partner in developing new processors. Top executives now took his advice and made a first tentative approach to Intel about working on a shared chip design.

In December 1993, technical teams from the companies began meeting in a small conference room at a Hewlett building in Palo Alto. At the end of each day, the room was sealed and technical documents containing the specifications for both companies' advanced chip designs were placed in a safe with two locks.

For three months the researchers met daily, piling eight-hour meetings on top of normal eight-hour work shifts as they looked for common ground. Unexpectedly, they found it easily. In June 1994, the two companies agreed to a deal in which Hewlett-Packard would transfer its technology to Intel, which would then build it into a new generation of microprocessors.

John Crawford, an Intel chip architect, became the technical lead for the project; Mr. Huck, the RISC expert, took over as head of the Hewlett team that worked with Intel engineers at a joint operation in Cupertino, Calif., to finish the chip's design.

Last October, the two men were on stage together, introducing the Merced design to more than 1,500 computer designers at the Microprocessor Forum in San Jose.

That presentation has set off what can only be called EPIC shifts in the industry, with each computer company scrambling to position itself to survive in the shadow of the Intel-Hewlett juggernaut.

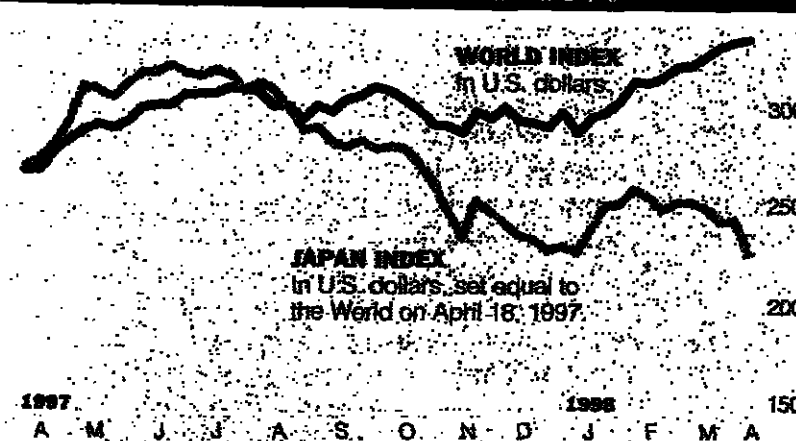
Or, at least, the shadow of the expected juggernaut. If the skeptics prove right and the computer industry's growth shifts from desktop PCs to personal digital assistants, interactive TV set-top boxes, intelligent cellular phones and the like, Merced may be as successful as, say, the i432.

"The real question is: Can they keep the appetite growing for what they do?" said John Mashey, a computer designer at Silicon Graphics. "In the United States, it seems like some things are getting saturated in the PC business."

Yet if anyone should be capable of riding the Merced tsunami, it is Mr. Grove, who at 61 stepped aside last month as Intel's chief executive but continues as chairman. Moreover, if there is a real marketplace threat to Intel, it is not apparent today in Silicon Valley.

"If you look at this as a chess match," said Linley Gwennap, publisher of the Microprocessor Report newsletter, "then Intel has already won the game."

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURR.

Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Australia	212.07	-2.2	19	6.0	21	3.63	214.31	4.9
Austria	223.43	1.0	9	18.2	15	1.52	214.42	21.4
Belgium	310.68	0.3	12	22.1	7	2.42	291.99	25.6
Brazil	257.38	-1.4	17	7.9	20	1.80	539.18	10.1
Britain	393.47	0.6	11	18.6	13	2.79	351.41	17.5
Canada	245.08	-0.9	16	15.4	18	1.59	251.91	14.5
Denmark	510.42	0.0	14	14.1	19	1.23	489.03	17.4
Finland	383.53	3.1	3	37.7	3	2.00	451.51	41.8
France	299.63	1.6	7	25.2	6	1.98	290.95	28.6
Germany	275.00	1.8	6	19.9	10	1.23	264.10	23.1
Hong Kong	335.88	-6.0	23	-6	26	4.75	335.14	-5.6
Indonesia	56.79	-4.7	22	-14.0	28	2.22	303.11	36.1
Ireland	516.22	-1.5	18	28.6	5	1.86	533.83	34.5
Italy	170.60	6.0	1	45.0	1	1.06	232.15	49.4
Japan	91.64	-8.7	24	-3.8	24	1.02	78.05	-0.3
Malaysia	194.35	-13.2	27	18.2	14	2.43	283.69	15.1
Mexico	16.35	-0.7	20	-9.3	27	1.51	15,249.11	-4.1
Netherlands	490.85	1.2	8	19.8	11	1.96	466.27	22.9
New Zealand	73.88	-3.4	21	-3.3	23	4.59	71.12	1.8
Norway	333.14	-0.6	15	4.3	22	1.81	345.40	8.1
Philippines	96.84	-8.9	25	-4.5	25	1.92	161.38	-7.7
Singapore	215.03	-11.5	26	-18.7	12	2.53	347.20	23.0
South Africa	315.05	3.7	2	42.5	2	1.57	460.33	46.7
Spain	387.35	2.7	4	21.4	9	1.73	674.37	22.3
Sweden	570.11	0.1	13	17.6	16	1.02	379.39	23.1
Switzerland	400.94	0.7	10	37.7	4	7.09	42.33	17.4
Thailand	26.57	-6.9	28	15.6	17	1.39	458.37	15.6
United States	458.37	2.4	5					

COMPOSITE INDICES

Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank
Europe	353.44	1.4	22.3	1.97
Pacific Basin	103.03	-8.0	-2.7	1.70
Europe/Pacific	207.39	-1.6	13.8	1.89
World	291.01	0.5	14.6	1.62

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1998 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	135.10	130.33	+3.66	124.29
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.8472	1.8266	+1.13	1.6853
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.4194	1.4164	+0.21	1.3921
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6595	1.6832	-1.41	1.6346

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

UPS AND DOWNS

March 30-April 3: The Dow Flirts With 9,000 on Rising Unemployment

PRICES	
DOMESTIC EQUITIES	
Broad market	Up 2.49%
S. & P. 500 index	1,122.70
Blue chips	Up 2.13%
Dow 30 industrials	8,983.41
Small capitalization	Up 1.81%
Russell 2000 index	485.79

DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries	Up 1.32%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	218.79
Municipals	Up 0.89%
Bond Buyer index	124.19
Corporates	Up 1.40%
Merrill Lynch Master index	981.92

AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks	Up 1.35%
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	353.44
Asian stocks	Down 7.99%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	103.03
Gold	Up 2.38%
New York cash price	\$310.30

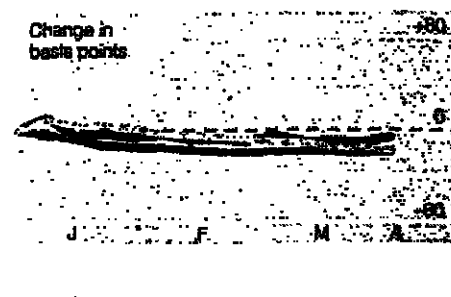
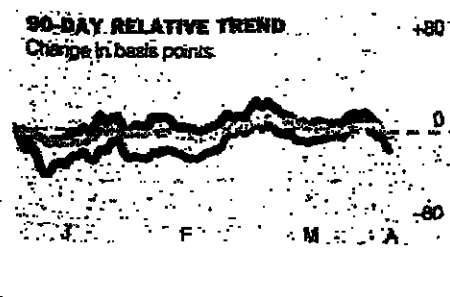
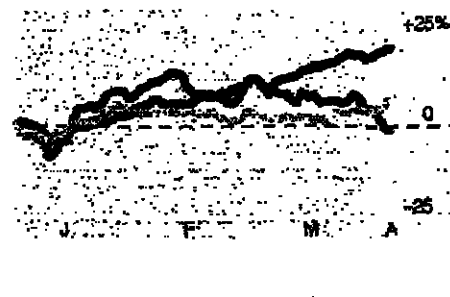
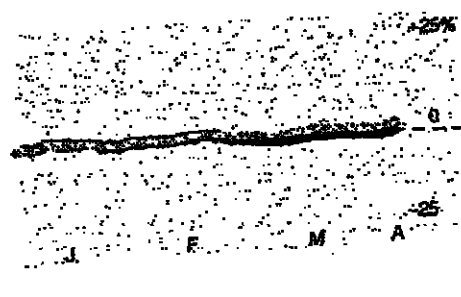
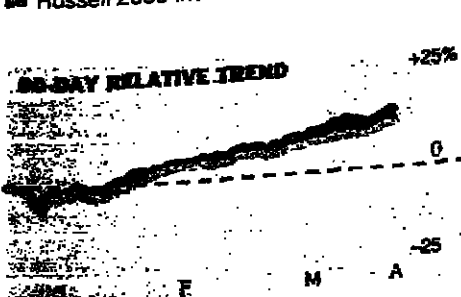
Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms.

YIELDS

BONDS	
Long bonds	5.79%
30-year Treasuries	Down 17 basis pts.
Notes	5.40%
2-year Treasuries	Down 23 basis pts.
Municipals	5.20%
Bond Buyer index	Down 6 basis pts.

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Money market funds	5.05%
Taxable average	Up 4 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	4.97%
1-year small savers	Unchanged
Stocks	1.42%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 3 b.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

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Fairness for Ken Starr

Throughout the long and winding course of the various investigations into a uniquely undisciplined and trouble-prone White House, we have argued for due process of law. We advocated that Paula Corbin Jones should have the full benefit of due process and that the President and First Lady should as well. Now it seems necessary to argue that the benefits of orderly legal process should be guaranteed for Kenneth Starr and the American people.

To be sure, Mr. Starr is an odd character and not the vessel we would have chosen for so many principles of high public value. When it comes to public relations, he is a one-man train wreck. As demonstrated by his subpoenas of bookstore records and Monica Lewinsky's mother, he has an unerring instinct for seeking information in the worst possible way.

But nothing Mr. Starr has done excuses the campaign of vilification conducted by the Clintons and their television mouthpieces. That campaign is designed to deny Mr. Starr and the taxpayers the benefits of a completed investigation into matters of legal weight about which President and Mrs. Clinton and agencies of the Administration have consistently refused to tell the full truth.

The amount and source of money paid and received by the Clintons in the Whitewater deal remain unresolved. So do the details of a number of incidents in which the Administration ignored the normal rules of conflict of interest. There was meddling with the Resolution Trust Corporation's inquiry into Madison Savings and Loan. The Federal Bureau of Investigation was brought in to make up a cover story about the dismissal of White House travel office employees. Confidential F.B.I. files on the political opposition were stockpiled at the White House.

There are plenty of indications — unproven but troubling — of attempts to buy off or illegally coach witnesses ranging from Webster Hubbell to acquaintances of Mr. Clinton's purported female associates. In post-Watergate America, everyone knows that if a Republican Administration was alleged to have meddled with witnesses or Federal agencies, few in Congress would have the

audacity to urge that an independent counsel fold his investigation.

This brings us around to our point about the sanctity of the law in the matters outlined above. In the days ahead, the Clinton team will argue that financial matters that transpired long ago in a small state with a gamy political ethos do not warrant delay of national business. As for matters flowing from Ms. Jones's lawsuit, the primary argument will be that perjury or obstruction of justice in a dismissed suit is of no consequence.

The rebuttal is simple and straightforward. Law is the keystone of American society and political culture. If it does not apply to small matters concerning this President, the day will come when the public will be asked to believe that it should be ignored in large matters concerning some other President. Neither Mr. Clinton's political convenience nor Mr. Starr's clumsiness must tempt us into paying so high a price. The rule of law, whether applied to matters trivial or grand, is the central magic of the American governmental experience.

To abandon it today will lead to peril tomorrow. Even so, public weariness has become a factor. The public yearns to avert its gaze from Presidential conduct, both personal and managerial, that has so often seemed unbecoming to the office. The White House has a new strategy of demanding speedy work from Mr. Starr while impeding justice with bogus claims of an executive privilege that would cover White House discussions of everything from the Whitewater deal to Ms. Lewinsky's job search. As a practical matter, Mr. Starr must find some way to fight through these delays and wrap up his main work, including any indictments or reports to the House of Representatives.

We are by no means confident that Mr. Starr has the skills to combat the forces of vilification and delay that will now be concentrated upon him. But we believe that if Mr. Clinton continues to press the public toward a choice between his political interests and a respect for the law and its agents, he will be sentencing himself to a crippled Presidency and to a crabbed and unrequited retirement.

The State of Boris Yeltsin's Health

Russian rulers have never been a buttoned-down lot, but Boris Yeltsin has been doing some pioneering work in eccentric leadership. The gyrations of recent weeks have left a nation with thousands of nuclear weapons in the untenable position of having no sure line of succession to a President of uncertain health. That raises the awkward but unavoidable question of whether Mr. Yeltsin is capable of providing the steady leadership his country so urgently needs.

In deed and in word, Mr. Yeltsin has seemed wobbly of late. By replacing a seasoned prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, with a political novice, Sergei Kiriyenko, Mr. Yeltsin increases the chances of future instability. Mr. Kiriyenko seems no match for the political heavyweights who would contend for the presidency if Mr. Yeltsin became incapacitated or died before his term expires in 2000. Without a strong prime minister to fill the post and hold together the country until new elections could be called, a constitutional succession could be overwhelmed by a scramble for power.

Mr. Yeltsin seemed indifferent to this danger as he decapitated his Government. He compounded the problem by seeming unclear himself about which ministers he planned to reappoint and Parliament's role in the formation of a new government.

All this follows several episodes in which Mr. Yeltsin surprised his aides with improvised policy pronouncements, including the assertion earlier this year that an American attack on Iraq might lead to a new world war.

Russian satirists make sport of this unpredictable behavior, but it is not amusing. Mr. Yeltsin, through force of personality and revision of the Constitution, has given the presidency lopsided power. That puts a premium on constant leadership. It also places a burden on Mr. Yeltsin, his aides and his doctors to level with Russians about his health.

Since bypass surgery in November 1996, Mr. Yeltsin has dropped out of sight several times to treat what his doctors described as severe respiratory illnesses. They have denied any recurrence of the heart problems that incapacitated Mr. Yeltsin before the surgery, and have said he suffered no mental impairment during or after the operation.

The Kremlin, unfortunately, has a long history of camouflaging enfeebled leaders. Given Mr. Yeltsin's impulsive instincts, it is hard to know whether his recent conduct is just another burst of capricious behavior or a sign of physical or mental deterioration. It is not a question that Russia can afford to sidestep.

Editorial Observer/TINA ROSENBERG

New Punishment for an Ancient War Crime

Crimes against women, especially sexual violence, are finally getting the attention they deserve in the prosecution of war crimes. In the case of Rwanda, the turn began a year ago when a witness appearing before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda testified that she had seen rapes by men under the command of Jean-Paul Akayesu, the former Mayor of Taba, Rwanda. He was the first person to be tried by the tribunal, and was charged with genocide, and was charged with genocide, and was charged with genocide.

Navanethem Pillay, a South African who is the tribunal's only female judge, pressed the witness for details. Soon another witness also described numerous rapes on premises that Mr. Akayesu's police controlled, with Mr. Akayesu's police controlling on.

After women's organizations increased their pressure on the tribunal to take rape seriously, the court adjourned the case for more investigation, this time focused on sexual violence. Now, a year later, as Judge Pillay and her two fellow jurists ponder Mr. Akayesu's case, they are weighing his guilt on charges that

International courts recognize the gravity of rape.

include rape as part of the counts of genocide and crimes against humanity. The United Nations estimated that at least a quarter-million women were raped in Rwanda.

Rape has always been a part of war, but has rarely been prosecuted as a war crime. The Nuremberg tribunals did not charge any Nazi with rape, even though some witnesses testified about it. The war crimes tribunal in Tokyo did convict Japanese officers for rape in Nanking.

Today, sexual violence is a prominent focus of the international tribunal for Yugoslavia, and may become so in Rwanda. The decisions of these tribunals are already setting international precedent that sexual crimes — including rape, sexual slavery, and sexual mutilation — are among the gravest of international crimes. These decisions will likely migrate into the legal systems of many countries, as the Nuremberg decisions

did. American military officers writing a new code covering the laws of war are closely watching the tribunals' decisions on sexual crimes.

The world's outrage over mass rape in Bosnia was one of the reasons the tribunals were established. Rape was an instrument of ethnic cleansing, part of a campaign of atrocities designed to force civilians to flee. In the town of Foca, Serbs set up specific camps for the repeated rape of female prisoners. Some of the women were held as sexual prisoners for other soldiers. The men who ran Foca were indicted for these offenses on charges of rape, torture, persecution and enslavement, all crimes against humanity or grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions. At the Yugoslavia tribunal, which is based in The Hague, a fourth of all the indictments include charges of sexual violence.

The Rwanda tribunal has been slower to treat sexual crimes seriously. A new chief prosecutor appointed last year, Bernard Muna of Cameroon, is paying more attention to sexual crimes, and the tribunal now has female investigators and an escort to bring rape victims to the tribunal. But the tribunal still offers

no counseling to rape victims. Measures to protect witnesses — several of whom have been killed before testifying — remain inadequate.

Sexual crimes are also under debate as delegates from around the world negotiate the rules for a new permanent international criminal court. They recently decided to call rape a form of torture, which places it among the most serious war crimes. In June, when delegates hope to reach an agreement, they will debate how to define rape as a crime against humanity. It will also be crucial to hire judges and prosecutors sensitive to the importance of sexual violence, and to create a senior staff position that deals specifically with the issue.

While many rape victims fear the social stigma, and others have been threatened into silence, their sheer numbers have guaranteed witnesses at The Hague. There the most serious obstacle to prosecuting rape is the same one impeding the prosecution of all criminals — they are not being delivered to the court. More than two-thirds of the 27 men the tribunal has publicly charged with rape are not yet in custody.

Copyrights Can Inhibit Expression

To the Editor:

Your article on copyrights (Arts pages, March 28) presented some of the arguments on either side of the Congressional initiative to extend the term of protection. While your article makes clear that the cost of extensions may be to limit the freedom of some artists and writers, it fails to note that the particular freedom limited is that of speech and expression. Control of copyright can be used all too easily to control the writing of history.

For this reason our political ancestors in England and in America were profoundly ambivalent about granting copyright and insisted on its strict limitation. One would hope that our current leaders would be similarly vigilant in the defense of our freedom.

EUGENE DWYER
Gambier, Ohio, March 28, 1998
The writer is a professor of art history at Kenyon College.

Trademark Longevity

To the Editor:

Re "Immortal Words, Immortal Royalties? Even Mickey Mouse Joins the Fray" (Arts pages, March 28): While a particular Disney cartoon may fall into the public domain when its copyright expires, Disney's trademarks will be protected as long as they are in active use.

Despite a lapse in copyright protection for a Mickey Mouse cartoon, Disney's lawyers could still lash out at anyone using the trademarked character for commercial purposes. "Kodak" and "Coca-Cola" have been valid trademarks for longer than 75 years and show no signs of running out.

KEN HOROWITZ
Old Greenwich, Conn.
March 28, 1998

Shakespeare's Sources

To the Editor:

Your article on copyrights (Arts pages, March 28) begins by asking, "Should Shakespeare have gotten royalties for 'West Side Story,' since it was based on 'Romeo and Juliet'?" Like all creative people, Shakespeare drew upon the common heritage of his culture by freely using the stories and songs of an earlier time. In this case, it was a narrative poem by Arthur Brooke, "The Tragical History of Romeo and Juliet," published 33 years before Shakespeare wrote "Romeo and Juliet."

In Colombia, U.S. Can Find Better Drug Strategy

To the Editor:

Re "U.S. Seeks Sharp Increase in Funds to Fight Drugs in Colombia" (news article, April 1): Your article describing an Administration plan to increase funds by \$21 million to fight drugs in Colombia highlights the continued shortsightedness of the United States effort in this country.

What R. Rand Beers, director of the State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, described as "an ambitious new strategy to attack narcotics trafficking in Colombia on all fronts" seems to ignore what may be the most important front — that is, helping to create agricultural alternatives for Colombian farmers whose livelihood depends on their land.

These farmers are not getting rich off the coca production (we should not confuse the farmers with the drug cartels), and most would prefer to return to the production of agricultural goods, which they farmed before the demand for cocaine in the United States lured them into coca.

Successful efforts in Peru and Bolivia to help farmers move from coca to the production of food should be replicated in Colombia.

Instead, the new strategy that Mr. Beers described simply puts more money into old methods, like expanding fumigation of coca crops and intercepting planes and boats transporting cocaine — which have not been very successful at stemming coca production in Colombia.

Proposed Federal legislation to extend the term of copyrights will stifle creativity and impede scholarship by forcing future artists to obtain permission to use works by people who have been dead for more than 50 years.

MADISON, Wis., March 31, 1998
The writer is director of the general library system of the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Uncle Sam's Childhood

To the Editor:

According to your article on efforts to extend the copyright law (Arts pages, March 28), the United States "might never have adopted Uncle Sam as a symbol" if it had had to pay royalties. In fact, the image, created by Thomas Nast, was never formally adopted as a national symbol; it evolved over many years.

The character derives from a late-18th-century portrayal of a young populist figure, Brother Jonathan, as an image of our fledgling country. Uncle Sam first appeared circa 1836 as an old, ailing figure in a dressing gown of stars and stripes in an anti-Jackson cartoon by E. W. Clay. In 1843 Uncle Sam was pictured again by Clay, in 18th-century garb; in 1870 Joseph Pepper introduced chin whiskers in the style of Horace Greeley.

In 1872 Nast amalgamated several images into the figure we now recognize. Whether his claim to a copyright would hold up in court is debatable. Clay would give him a run for his money.

ANN WEISSMANN
New York, March 31, 1998



Courtesy of New York Historical Society

The United States, as well as Colombia, would be better served if these proposed additional funds were directed at refocusing Colombia's agriculture onto its original crop.

MICHAEL OAKES
Brooklyn, April 1, 1998

Nuns in Salvador

To the Editor:

Re "4 Salvadorans Say They Killed U.S. Nuns on Orders of Military" (front page, April 3):

While it remains hard to find meaning in the ruthless act that brought death to four Roman Catholic churchwomen in El Salvador in 1980, the investigation into their rape and murder has shed light on the United States' acts of military brutality and murder in Latin America. The School of the Americas, financed by American taxpayers, has notorious alumni trained in terrorism and torture.

Let us put Maura Clarke, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford and Dorothy Kazel to rest and close the school.

(Sister) ARLENE FLAHERTY
Blauvelt, N.Y., April 3, 1998

A Girl and Her Science

To the Editor:

Your April 1 front-page article on Emily Rosa and her experiment on therapeutic touch casts still more doubt on the National Institutes of Health's Office of Alternative Medicine, which has spent years and millions of dollars on investigations of dubious alternative medicine nostrums but has yet to find fault with a single one. Strange, isn't it, that Emily, a 9-year-old, and her mother were able to devise a simple and inexpensive test that decisively invalidates therapeutic touch, one of the therapies that the O.A.M. is still pursuing.

I have an idea. Why not replace that agency with the Rosa family, whose rational and common-sense approach would be a welcome change and a boon to taxpayers?

LEON JAROFF
East Hampton, N.Y., April 1, 1998

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U.S. Needs Africa Priorities

To the Editor:

I. William Zartman (Op-Ed, April 2) says "apologies of the sort that President Clinton produced on his tour of Africa are worth little if they are offered merely as regrets for the past." He is right.

The President carried economic and political power to the continent. Yet the grievances of millions of Africans remain unanswered: hundreds of innocent citizens are unjustly incarcerated, improper state elections continue to be held, and other gross abuses of human rights remain unchecked.

Such injustices have been recorded by international human rights organizations and world leaders, but the enforcement of democratic elections and basic human rights has taken second place to business interests in United States policy toward Africa.

The promotion of trade and investment when African leaders continue their abuse of power does not inhibit these violations but encourages them.

GIRMA ABEBE
New York, April 2, 1998

Think of the Present

To the Editor:

I. William Zartman ("An Apology Needs a Pledge," Op-Ed, April 2) makes some telling points about the shortcomings of President Clinton's apologies for American inaction in Africa.

One cannot argue with his call for a pledge "to be responsive to future African conflicts," but Mr. Zartman skirts the present: the conflict in the Sudan, which some have described as a genocide. Focusing on the past and future can just as easily become a rationale for doing nothing about the present.

FORREST G. SMITH
North Haven, Conn., April 3, 1998

A Bridge to the Past

To the Editor:

Re "Clinton Comment Draws Public Ire" (news article, March 28): Representative Tom DeLay of Texas's outcry over President Clinton's public expression of regret concerning the American role in the slave trade confused me.

Wasn't there a time when Republicans openly decried slavery and didn't care if the world heard it? Mr. DeLay confuses patriotism with hubris.

While the Democrats try to build a bridge to the 21st century, Republicans seem intent on building one to the 19th century.

DIANE EL HALL
Davis, Calif., March 28, 1998

G.O.P. Blocks Reform

To the Editor:

In "Main Election Bill Dies in the House" (news article, March 31), which describes how the House Republican leadership derailed meaningful campaign finance reform, you repeat without qualification Representative Bill Thomas's misleading charge that when Democrats controlled the Senate and House, we never sent President Clinton a campaign reform bill.

If Mr. Thomas cared to consult the record, he would discover that his Republican colleagues are responsible for blocking reform. In 1993, President Clinton came to Washington promising to sign a campaign finance reform bill. That year I introduced comprehensive reform legislation, which passed the Democratic House and the Democratic Senate. Unfortunately, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky filibustered it later on a procedural motion, killing the bill.

Every reform measure enacted since 1970 has been passed by a Democratic Congress: the 1971 Revenue Act, which established the Presidential public financing system, and the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act and its later amendments.

SAM GEJDENSON
Member of Congress, 20th Dist., Conn.
Washington, March 31, 1998

Dangerous Waterways

To the Editor:

Clyde Haberman (NYC column, March 31) observes that New York Harbor is "not the North Atlantic" and that a stricken Staten Island ferry "could easily be run aground and a sister ferry pulled up alongside to lead passengers to safety." Capt. Richard Viana of the Coast Guard says that a dangerous accident is "not a very likely scenario." These comments overlook the history of New York City's waterways.

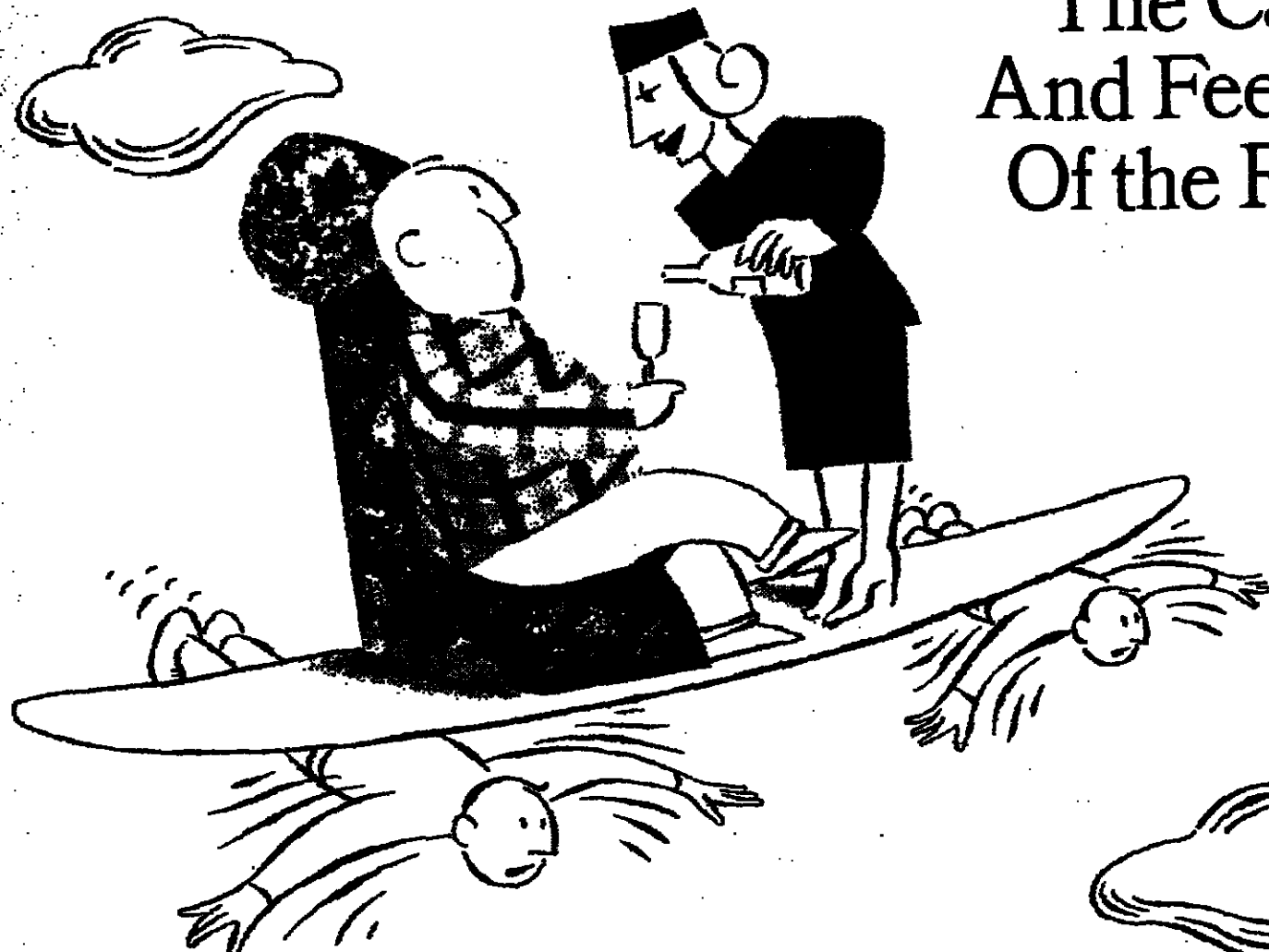
In 1904, when the excursion steamboat General Slocum burst into flames in the East River, 1,021 passengers — mostly women and children on a Sunday-school picnic — died within 50 yards of shore. An inquiry found that inadequate lifeboats and improperly inspected life vests contributed to the loss of life.

The Federal law that requires regular safety inspections of passenger ferries and excursion boats, and that can now be legally evaded because the Staten Island ferries are free, was enacted as a result of the General Slocum tragedy.

PHILIP DRAY
HANK LINHART
Brooklyn, March 31, 1998
The writers are producing a documentary about the General Slocum.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

The Care
And Feeding
Of the Rich

Illustrations by Matthew Martin

By Robert B. Reich

Recently, U.S. Airways removed a row of coach seats in each wide-body plane to make room for a new, luxurious business-class service. The distance between rows in the new section is 55 inches, compared with 31 inches in coach. Other airlines are also expanding their accommodations for travelers in business class, as well as in first class.

The ranks of America's affluent are growing, and the market is responding — creating superior spaces and services for them. But unlike the old moneyed class a century ago whose languid extravaganzas created the Gilded Age, the new affluent are a business and professional elite who are in constant motion — investment bankers, corporate lawyers, jackpot entrepreneurs, real estate developers, entertainment moguls. They are money-rich but time-poor.

Rather than spend their fortune on fox hunts or long cruises, they spend it on necessities, like flying from city to city. Yet because they have so much money to spend on what they need, and so little time for anything else, the marketplace is quickly transforming their necessities into extravaganzas.

First- and business-class seats now account for more than 22 percent of the airlines' domestic passenger revenue, up from 9.5 percent in 1987, according to the Air Transport Association. No wonder there has been a growth in luxury services at the front of their planes. The new elite also demand premium ground transportation, which explains the surge in limousine services and sales.

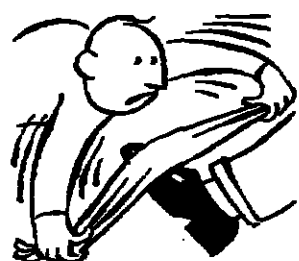
Robert B. Reich is a professor of social and economic policy at Brandeis University's Heller Graduate School. He was Secretary of Labor in the first Clinton Administration.

of luxury cars. These people have to live somewhere, so the residential market is quickly shifting to luxury apartments and co-ops.

In this new economy, the middle class is getting squeezed, sometimes literally. Wherever space is limited, a larger portion of it is going upscale. Expanding the front of the plane means less legroom in coach class, and the seats are narrower.

As the cost of real estate soars, the middle class is being pushed out. In New York City, two-bedroom apartments that went for \$240,000 just two years ago now cost \$300,000 and up.

Not only do the new elite get more space. They also get more attention. The front of the plane contains far



more flight attendants per person than in coach, and they respond to "call" buttons more quickly. The airline's V.I.P. lounge is staffed by friendly souls who speed passengers through check-in lines. Limousine services answer the phones more quickly than taxi companies do, because they're better staffed. Luxury-car dealerships have more mechanics on hand, so the wait for servicing is shorter.

Increasingly, the quality most sought after by the new elite is personal care. What makes an apartment truly deluxe is the custodians who respond quickly. What distinguishes the high-end retail stores from the mass-market department stores is the abundance of salespeople who hover tactfully. The best hotels have platoons of obliging clerks and charming concierges. And the new elite has no shortage

of specialized care — personal trainers, masseurs, physical therapists, guides, counselors, decorators, planners and advisers to make their lives and bodies more efficient. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has estimated a 76 percent increase in the number of physical therapists between 1990 and 2005; in this same period, 40 percent more gardeners and groundskeepers, and 39 percent more restaurant cooks, waiters and hotel staff. Productivity isn't growing much in this large and expanding sector of the economy, because the quality of personal attentiveness improves when there are more people available to provide it.

Meanwhile the squeezed middle is getting less personal attention, in case you hadn't noticed. As the labor market moves upscale, whatever services are still available to the middle are becoming automated and digitized. Remember when telephone operators and bank tellers were human beings instead of machines? By the year 2005, the number of bank tellers will have dropped by 25 percent from the 1990 level, switchboard operators by 24 percent and service station attendants by 17 percent. Personal service is just too expensive these days. We'd rather get the bargain-basement air fare, without the frills. Forget full-service pumps. We'll take the cheap gas.

Here is the irony. Most of the tens of millions of personal-attention jobs created in recent years to cater to the new elite are being done by the same middle class that's being squeezed in the back of the plane.

They used to be bank tellers, telephone operators, garage mechanics and factory workers. Their work had often benefited people like themselves, who might even have lived in the same neighborhoods.

But now they've been pushed out of the old jobs and into new jobs whose value is measured by the quality of their attentiveness to people who live much better than they do, and better than their neighbors.

The old moneyed class of the Gilded

Life in the personal
service sector.

Age had servants from the other side of town, of course, and the servants cleaned rooms and drove carriages they never could have afforded for themselves.

But large-scale industrialization gradually changed all this, creating a mass market for mass-produced goods and standardized services, while building a huge middle class along the way. That was the great achievement of modern capitalism, and it strengthened our society as well as our economy.

The emerging economy isn't taking us backward, but it does seem to be moving us toward a new kind of social divide. As long as the buoyant economy continues to lift most of us, no one's complaining, at least not very much. But what happens when the tide goes out?

WASHINGTON
When the Africa trip began, White House photographers saw a sad, trapped look in the President's eyes. "No exit," as one photographer described it.

But, as always with Bill Clinton, the huge, adoring crowds across the continent were a palliative. "In other countries, by the time they get through treating you the way they do," he told Sam Donaldson in Senegal, "you feel like a real President."

Later that night, after Robert Bennett called with the news about the Paula Jones lawsuit being dismissed, the President who finally felt like a President bopped around his hotel room with drum and cigar in an Iron John moment.

Across town, his press aides were scolding reporters at dinner at an oceanside restaurant. "The press," Joe Lockhart lectured, "is going to have to go through a ritualistic self-examination."

Across the table, Michael McCurry knew the sex scandals weren't over. Grumpy from giving up smoking, he figured one good news cycle and then it would be back to war.

But in a funny way the system has worked. For a start, it showed us where the system is broken.

Judge Susan Webber Wright correctly dismissed the Paula Jones lawsuit, drawing the line between boorish behavior and job discrimination.

Sexual harassment must be more than a single ugly uninhibited moment, with no repercussions. Not getting flowers on Secretaries Day does not mean your civil rights have been violated.

The lesson of both Paula Jones, who made her public debut at a conservative convention in Washington where impeachment T-shirts were already a hot item, and Anita Hill, who became a magnet to liberal opponents of Clarence Thomas, is that sexual harassment shouldn't be used as a dagger by partisan activists.

Perversely, the system has also worked to show us that the independent counsel setup is out of control. The counsel appointed to investigate Ronald Reagan's Department of Housing and Urban Development is still up and running and Ron Brown is being investigated beyond the grave. (Subpoena power!)

Ken Starr's sole public service may be persuading Congress to gut the independent counsel law.

Asked how he justified spending \$30 million to prove that Bill Clinton lies,

cuis corners and womanizes, Mr. Starr reminded the reporters staking out his home that "I ride coach when I go to Little Rock."

The more the holy-roller prosecutor gives that strange "Who ate the strawberries?" smile, the more we feel we're in the grip of Captain Queeg.

"I had the pleasure of meeting Jack Webb after that show had long since left the air," he said in one odd riff

And for public
relations.

about "Dragnet." "And that's something that I always remember, 'Just the facts.' ... And now I would say let's don't have spin, let's don't have public relations, let's deal with the facts."

Amazingly, this attempt to connect to popular culture came after Mr. Starr himself sought public relations coaching from a new adviser and had discussions with Stuart Taylor Jr., a National Journal columnist, about a job on his staff.

On a plane trip to Washington recently, Mr. Starr was overheard asking the p.r. adviser how to better handle reporters. Should he invite them to his home? Should he offer them "libations"? Ordinarily, libations would be fine with me, but it's way too late for that. If Mr. Starr was going to start spilling up his image, he should have done it before all those stories came out about his hymn singing while jogging and junior high school hobby of polishing shoes.

Having almost created a constitutional crisis, Mr. Starr should understand why the country would like him to wrap up his investigation and show the evidence he has uncovered. Instead, he seems in no particular hurry and has plans next month to handle an appeal for Meineke Discount Muffler, a private client of his law firm.

Everyone is talking about how Bill Clinton has gotten away with it. But he hasn't really. The system has worked here, too. Impeachment was always a ridiculous idea. The fact is Mr. Clinton has been punished severely for his excesses. What more bitter outcome could there be than for a President to have squandered the blessings of two terms and a budget surplus?

Ken Starr may be vindictive. But he is not as vindictive as history.

Lincoln Apologizes

By Thomas Geoghegan

It's strange that there's a debate over whether our President should apologize for slavery. I thought our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, already did, in his Second Inaugural Address.

It's an apology so poetic, so biblical, so Shakespearean, that I doubt any words read on a teleprompter could improve it.

The Second Inaugural is worth a book as good as the one Garry Willis wrote on the Gettysburg Address. Because the apology builds and builds as it goes along, I only mar it by quoting in the middle. But in any case, here's just a part:

It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces but let us judge not that we be not judged...

(O.K., that's not an apology yet.)
... [But], the Almighty has His own Purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offences!" for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences...

(He is supposing, but wait.)
... which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and

Thomas Geoghegan, a labor lawyer, is the author of "Which Side Are You On?"

that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due those to those by whom the offence came...

(Yes, both North and South deserve to suffer this awful war.)

... shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him?

(No, God wills this.)

Fondly do we hope — fervently do we pray — that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet

The sins of
slavery, potentially
expressed.

if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk...

(This national debt won't vanish quickly.)

... and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword...

(Saying "sorry" isn't enough, and even money isn't enough.)

... as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

What's so strange is not that Lincoln apologized. What's so strange or scary is that such an apology would drop out of our heads. What is the reason, I wonder?

Too Shakespearean? Yes, but we have elites who claim to follow every word of "King Lear" and "Macbeth" and "The Comedy of Errors," but their eyes glaze over when they read Lincoln.

Too biblical? That may be the problem. Any reference to the "Almighty," and people get nervous. Even the Religious Right seems tone-deaf to a President who speaks of the wrath of God.

Too violent? Yes, that's what I think. This apology for us is too strong in its emotion. Lincoln isn't saying, "Sorry! Have a nice day!" He reads his garments, he talks of blood, the blood sacrifice. He seems to hint at the sacrifice of his own life a few weeks later.

When Lincoln gave this speech, did he sense he would die, too? He must have recalled, as he spoke, that he, too, had defended slavery, that he had promised to accept slavery if he could save the Union. Wasn't he apologizing not just for the country, but for himself?

You'd think the whole drama of apology — followed by assassination — would be burned in our brains, but it's apparent people have forgotten. All that we remember from the Second Inaugural is the conclusion, the words, "with malice toward none, with charity for all..."

We have forgotten the words that precede this phrase, the terrible words, words about sacrifice. The whole careful edifice of the speech has somehow collapsed over the decades into a single sound bite:

All you need is love.

That attitude is what's sweeping the country. It's even swept away that terrifying apology, for that terrifying sin, completely from modern memory.

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THE ARTS

A Risky Remake Seeks the Spirit of a Classic

By DAVID MERMELSTEIN

LOS ANGELES ALL it is a love story, a Bildungsroman, a fantasy, but please, don't call it a remake. That's what those connected with "City of Angels," a film starring Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan and directed by Brad Silberling, are asking of critics and audiences. The movie, which opens on Friday, is based on the German director Wim Wenders's lyrical "Wings of Desire," a motion picture from 1987 that is already a classic.

Given its pedigree, it's no surprise that people close to "City of Angels" are a bit defensive, yet the film is distinctive enough to stand on its own, a work more inspired by Mr. Wenders's picture than derived from it, the movie's makers insist. "This film borrows from the concept of Wenders's film," said Mr. Silberling. "But our story is really a love story. It goes beyond where Wenders left off. It's the next step in where the relationship might or might not have gone."

In "Wings of Desire," a rumpelstiltskin angel played by Bruno Ganz yearns to know what it means to be human. After much angst, he gets his wish and is transformed into a person, ultimately pursuing a female acrobat (Solveig Dommartin) whom he has fallen in love with. In the more conventional "City of Angels," Seth (Mr. Cage in the Ganz role) is smitten faster, and the film focuses more overtly on romance. In addition, though Seth is not fully human until late in the film, he makes himself visible to the object of his affection, an ostensibly reserved but ultimately generous heart surgeon named Maggie (Ms. Ryan), well before his metamorphosis.

Dana Stevens wrote the screenplay for "City of Angels," and she admits to being apprehensive about tackling a project encumbered by high expectations and perhaps even hostility. "I remember thinking, Why am I doing this?" she said. "I could hear all the bad reviews. But I love 'Wings of Desire,' and I felt I could capture its essence."

She likens the experience of remaking a much-praised movie to adapting a novel, calling Mr. Wenders's picture "an artwork" and "po-

That happened with "Gastlight." In 1939, the British director Thorold Dickinson made a much-admired version with Anton Walbrook and Diana Wynyard. Five years later, MGM got George Cukor to direct Charles Boyer and Ingrid Bergman in a lush revisiting of the story.

So it's understandable that major producers and actors would express an interest in remaking even such an unconventional film as "Wings of Desire." Indeed, for the producer Dawn Steel, who died late last year of a brain tumor, the film exerted a powerful pull. By all accounts, it was Ms. Steel's determination to make an American version of "Wings of Desire" that saw "City of Angels" through. According to her husband, Charles Roven, who shares producer credit with her on "City of Angels,"

Hollywood attempts an American 'Wings of Desire'

"Dawn felt that there was another movie in the idea for 'Wings of Desire.'"

The remake rights to Mr. Wenders's film were acquired by Ms. Steel in 1989, but the road from sale to screen proved circuitous. Now with Warner Brothers, the movie was at various times attached to Disney and to Turner Pictures. There were also script problems. Though she apparently turned out to be very pleased with Ms. Stevens's effort, Ms. Steel was unhappy with earlier versions of the screenplay by other writers.

And if Ms. Steel took a chance in selecting a screenwriter with only one produced credit to her name — Ms. Stevens wrote the script for Michael Apted's "Blink" — then she took at least as great a risk in choosing Mr. Silberling as a director.

True, Steven Spielberg had shown confidence in Mr. Silberling, tapping him to direct "Casper," of friendly-ghost fame, but that hardly seemed enough to gain Mr. Silberling control



Meg Ryan and Nicolas Cage play a human and her celestial lover in "City of Angels," a new movie based on Wim Wenders's "Wings of Desire."

without a script was considered worth redoing by a major studio," Mr. Wenders continued. "Wings of Desire" could never be remade in a conventional sense; it could only be used as a point of departure, and that's exactly what Dana and Brad did."

Mr. Silberling is happy to hear that, for he tried hard to avoid copying Mr. Wenders. "We'd be fools to remake 'Wings of Desire,'" he said. "My film tries to recapture the spirit of his film, but it's praise from a distance, not hero worship."

In Mr. Wenders's mind, "City of Angels" enhances rather than detracts from his picture. "The two films reflect on each other in interesting ways," he said. "I was a little anxious when I got the script. But with every page, I felt Dana had done something intelligent and respectful, translating my 'poem' into an American story. It's still a film about love, but a very, very different one."

One point on which the two films emphatically diverge is location. Mr. Wenders's picture is a loving, if not always tidy, homage to Berlin; Mr. Silberling's, a paean to luminous Los Angeles. The decision to set "City of Angels" in Los Angeles was Ms. Steel's and Ms. Stevens's, and it went beyond the obvious play on the name of the metropolis. "Lately, I've become fond of L.A.," said Ms. Stevens, a native Southern Californian.

"Los Angeles is metaphorically more representative of America than any other city," Ms. Stevens added, explaining its use as a symbol in the film. "It has every personality, and I like the idea of angels being among all these different ethnic cultures."

But if Los Angeles seemed like just the place for angels to congregate, the very idea of angels existing among the general population was another matter, despite surveys indicating that Americans are open to such spiritual possibilities, and despite the recent success of television shows like "Touched by an Angel" and of "Michael," the 1996 movie starring John Travolta as an angel. Creating appealing, and believable, characters proved a challenge. In this regard, the filmmakers were helped by Mr. Cage's and Ms. Ryan's special interest.

"This film conveys simple and pure feelings of peace and happiness without sounding like a Hallmark card," said Mr. Cage. "I had been thinking about doing a film like this when the script came along."

Having just done three action films ("The Rock," "Con Air" and "Face/Off"), the actor decided that it was time to return to more serious

fare. He admits that Ms. Stevens's script touched him but is uncomfortable discussing precisely how. "I'd just as soon keep my spiritual views to myself," he said.

It's clear that much thought went into Mr. Cage's portrayal of Seth, the sensitive angel who yearns to be human, but if this movie places Mr. Cage on the side of the angels, then the Devil must be in the details. "You have no idea how impossible it is to play an angel," he said. "Do angels blink? Do they have shadows? Reflections? It can drive you nuts."

The film's themes were of prime importance to Ms. Ryan too. "Human existence is what's excited in this film," she said. But more than just the temporal aspects of Ms. Ste-

vens's script struck a chord with the actress.

"I'm interested in spiritual matters," she said. "I'm excited by the notion of having this kind of experience." More vocal than Mr. Cage about such things, she stated, "I don't know if angels are floating around, but the idea that there's a guiding force is something I embrace."

Yet for Mr. Roven, for whom "City of Angels" must be especially dear, the movie "is not really about an angel; it's about life and death and love." He is hoping that his wife's last film will make viewers think about these serious issues. "You go into this film saying it has the potential to be seen and appreciated and

remembered by a tremendous number of people," he said.

Like everyone involved with this picture, Mr. Wenders acknowledges the irony that Ms. Steel died while working on a project about angels. And some people may think it sad that Ms. Steel's last film was a remake rather than a wholly original enterprise, but she didn't see things that way. And neither does Mr. Wenders.

"Films are based on novels, historical events, myths, as well as on other movies," he said. "All sources are just as valid, and I certainly see no reason to discredit remakes. Every director steals from the treasure box of images he has inherited, anyway."

FULL-SCALE EFFORT

BY DAVID J. KAHN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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Solveig Dommartin and Bruno Ganz in "Wings of Desire."

etical." Yet she defends the concept of revisiting in film Mr. Wenders's themes. "I think even the staunchest fans of 'Wings of Desire' will admit that it doesn't have a very linear narrative," she said.

Indeed, "Wings of Desire" is a favorite of cinephiles precisely because it so thoroughly defies convention. A rambling film, it interweaves color and black-and-white photography, poses serious philosophical questions and resolutely refuses to resolve its characters' predicaments in a pat or even satisfying fashion.

Of course, Hollywood has been remaking films almost since the beginning of cinema. And in recent years, European movies have proved especially attractive. Think of Mike Nichols's "Birdcage" (a remake of "La Cage aux Folles") or Leonard Nimoy's "Three Men and a Cradle" (a remake of "Trois Hommes et un Couffin").

Even classics aren't immune: In 1983, James McBride remade Jean-Luc Godard's "Breathless," substituting Richard Gere for Jean-Paul Belmondo, with mixed results.

Once in a great while, a remake of a classic becomes a classic itself.

of a big-budget movie in which Ms. Ryan had expressed great interest. For one thing, "Casper" (1995) was decidedly not a critical success.

Ms. Steel certainly needed convincing. After meeting with Mr. Silberling, she informed him that she was considering Sydney Pollack and Peter Weir, directors of far greater experience and fame. But Mr. Silberling was persistent, and effective; three days later, he was back in Ms. Steel's office, persuading her that he was the right man for the job.

For his part, Mr. Wenders — who in 1992 made a sequel to "Wings of Desire," the less noteworthy "Faraway, So Close!" — seems pleased with how "City of Angels" turned out. It was his choice to sell the remake rights to "Wings of Desire," and he says his faith in the filmmakers has been rewarded.

"The number of music videos and commercials that have used 'Wings of Desire' as a model is astonishing," he said. "With this film, I feel much less violated. It's done with respect, with a sense of discovery all its own. It's not just, 'Look, Ma, no subtitles!'"

"I feel quite proud that a film shot



Otto Sander, left, in "Wings of Desire" as an angel who listens to the thoughts of a troubled writer (Curt Bois).

Playing with their lives

When Nahariya decided to build a NIS 30 million children's amusement park on an area along the coast last year, it opened up a toxic Pandora's Box.

First, the site is directly above an asbestos dump. Secondly, it is adjacent to the Eitanit factory, which prior to 1997 manufactured building materials containing asbestos.

When construction workers started digging and laying the foundations for the proposed park, to be called Medinat Yeladim (Children's State), pieces of the buried materials began coming to the surface. Now wind, sea and rain, plus pedestrian and construction vehicle traffic have pulverized the cement, sending millions of toxic asbestos fibers into the air.

"Do we want kids turned into guinea pigs?" asks certified industrial hygienist Yitzhak Fischer. There is no immediate reaction to asbestos contamination, he warns.

Nor is there a safe level for asbestos exposure. Experts liken each asbestos fiber flying through the air to a delayed bullet. "You're a lot safer with fewer bullets," Fischer adds soberly.

Fischer has been hired by a concerned residents' organization called the Association for Environment and Life Quality in Nahariya. Along with four other environment protection agencies, the group has filed suit against three government agencies: the City of Nahariya and the Environment and Interior ministries.

"We are fighting for our lives against the bullets of a near-invisible and dangerous enemy," says Orit Reich, chairman of the residents' group. "We want to stop all work and prevent Medinat Yeladim opening until all the toxic waste has been disposed of in the safest possible manner."

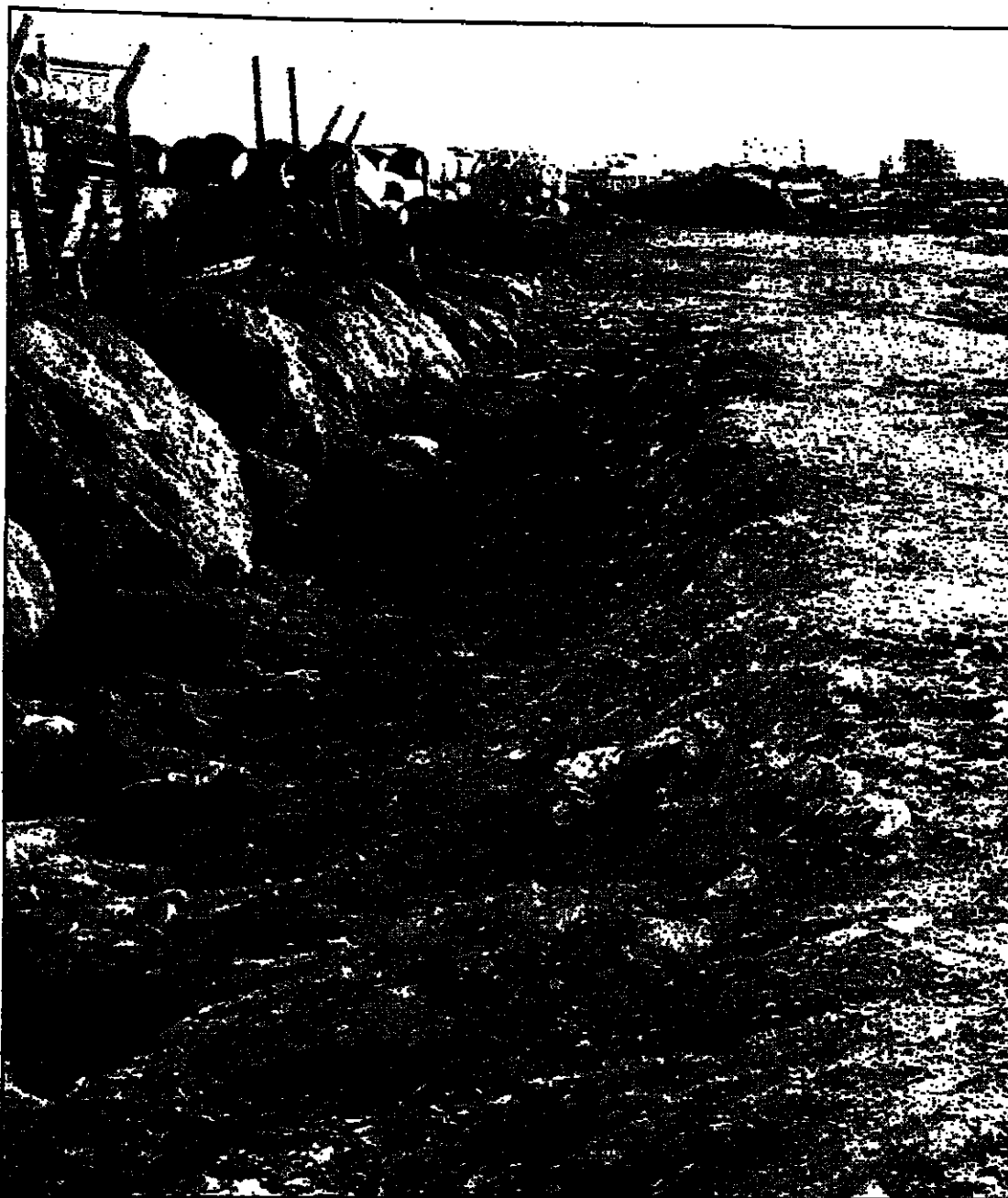
The lawsuit is currently before the Haifa District Court, which has extended its temporary restraining order halting all work on the site.

However, attorney Adam Fisch, who represents the Nahariya citizens' organization, says the court has only postponed its decision on what should be done with the site pending further information from expert authorities. In other words, work may continue at a later date.

"We need proper supervision," insists Reich, who charges that the amusement park project has been mismanaged from day one, exposing workers and residents to a highly toxic carcinogen.

When a group of Nahariya parents learned that a children's park was being built on top of an asbestos dump, they swung into action.

Sarah Hershenson reports



Site of the planned park: Venue for artless amusement, or ticking time bomb?

"The project violates zoning laws because it is too close to the water," Reich charges. And, she says, no initial comprehensive environmental study was done. "The agencies whose responsibility it is have been slow to act. They've turned their heads."

The threat of asbestos-related cancer has become a very real

concern for thousands of Nahariya and Western Galilee residents and their children.

TZILLI Anavi heads the Services and Asbestos Department of the Environment Ministry and is chairperson of the Technical Committee for Hazardous Dust. She says the ministry is now

supervising the site, but claims it was not initially notified about the construction of the children's park.

Prior to the start of work, Anavi says, "we took soil, air and dust readings at the asbestos dump site and the adjacent factory grounds twice a year." The results, she says, fell within the ministry's acceptable parameters.

"The ministry got involved when it became necessary to clean up the site, seeking help from supervisors and US agencies who have handled large-scale asbestos cleanup."

There are now two certified industrial hygienists consulting on the project. In February, the ministry hired Texan Andrew P. Obera to report on the site. He wrote:

"The construction site is heavily contaminated on and below the surface with friable asbestos debris... Construction of the park should proceed if, and only if, these measures [which he outlines]... are carried out. Excessive exposure of construction workers or members of the public to asbestos fibers can be avoided and is unacceptable."

The Haifa District Court is scheduled to give a further decision based on the report.

AS EARLY as March 1997, the citizens' group was a step ahead of the ministry in hiring Fischer, a recent immigrant from Baltimore, Maryland, with many years of

asbestos removal experience, to make an evaluation.

Both industrial hygienists, Fischer and Obera, agree that the amusement park site is contaminated.

Fischer's results, submitted on January 1 this year, said that samples collected from the site tested positive for crocidolite and chrysotile asbestos - crocidolite is considered the most dangerous form of asbestos - and emphasized that there is no safe level for asbestos exposure.

In his report Obera cautions the ministry to stop removing the asbestos in the way it is currently being done.

"It can proceed," he states, "if and only if it is run under the direction of someone who is competent in asbestos removal and will work according to the stringent American Department of Labor guidelines."

FISCHER points out that even people exposed for a short time to asbestos fibers can contract cancer. The late education minister Zevulun Hammer, he says, "died of an asbestos-related cancer even though he never worked at an asbestos site."

To the best of his knowledge, Fischer adds, the environment ministry never actually supervised work at the site but hired "so-called experts" to do so. In consequence, the area was not fenced off and the work wasn't done properly. It remained open to walkers, joggers, cyclists and fishermen.

In addition, he says, trucks hauling materials away were left uncovered and their contents improperly discarded.

For his part, Eitanit director Uri Peled maintains that his factory, which borders the site, didn't bury anything on the Nahariya beach. The asbestos-contaminated cement, he says, resulted from the factory using the beach to run off waste water into the Mediterranean.

RAFI Levinson lives in Nahariya and is a member of the citizens' group. He lays the problem squarely at the Environment Ministry's door.

"They betrayed the people," he says. "We initially reported the problem to them. It is not our job to be checking up on these things."

"Nevertheless," cautions Fischer, "the citizen's organization is responsible for trying to improve the situation."

Fischer's findings have been confirmed by Dr. Elihu D. Richter, Head of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Hebrew University - Hadassah.

In a letter to government agencies on February 10, 1998, Richter is characteristically blunt: "Do it the right way now, and avoid the need for more expensive measures later. Avoid a Yarkon Bridge scenario."

Nahariya Mayor Jackie Sabag was unavailable for comment, but said recently in a radio interview that Medinat Yeladim will open in the summer, presumably on the controversial site.

Fischer doesn't want to drive the sides further apart. "We are not on opposite sides of the table," he cautions. "We must work together to find the best solution. We need not be satisfied with dangerous mediocrity. We have to get a handle on the problem and determine how extensive it is."

"It is our responsibility to solve it properly without, bluntly speaking, killing people - workers, residents or visitors to the children's park."

Israel, Fischer stresses, has professionals who know the correct way to clean up asbestos.

"Disaster can be avoided," he says.

The pilgrims' tale

The Goldbergs decided to visit Jerusalem.

Now, these are not your typical Goldbergs. They don't just jump into the family car and join the national traffic jam. The kids don't start to get impatient after 30 minutes and whine "Are we there yet?"

These Goldberg kids know it takes time.

About 200 hours, in fact, give or take a day.

But you see, they're coming all the way from the Galilee.

M e n a h e m Goldberg, of Hoshaya, set out eight days ago with his two sons, a dog and five donkeys, on a pilgrimage to the site of the Temple.

That's what Jews did 2,000 years ago (except they had an actual Temple to go to), and Menahem wanted to know what it was like.

The expedition is an extension of his livelihood - he built Kfar Kedem, a recreated biblical village in Hoshaya.

Menahem wanted this experience for his eldest sons, too.

Other kids their age might be satisfied to make like pilgrims

accommodations before they set out.

He entered this Moslem village, where he knew no one, and came across an old man in the street.

"Menahem came here," said Ahmed Ali Abu Bakr, "and asked if there was somewhere they could put up a tent. I said I have space, you're welcome to it. But with this rain, I said they should sleep in the house."

"I found a good man in Abu Bakr," Menahem said. "And we know nothing is by coincidence - everything is fate, decided by God. I discovered that almost 50 years ago he worked for my grandparents in Rishon LeZion in their cowshed. It's fantastic!"

The following morning they would wake up in the heart of Arab Israel - on Land Day. Menahem scoffed at any hint of danger, pointing out that the

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

A family makes a pilgrimage to Jerusalem - riding five donkeys

through computerized simulation, but not these Goldbergs. They can't just click on "Exit" when they get tired or bored. On they trudge, either walking or riding on the back of a beast, day after day.

Ido is only 10 years old - and he's the older one; David is but eight.

"The pilgrims 2,000 years ago also traveled with small children," their father says. "It's the same route, the same mode of transportation, the same weather: they also had rain on their heads."

Ah, but the ancients didn't have a cell phone.

"Neither do I," Menahem grumbled, trying in vain to call his wife. "The rain got to it."

One may also excuse their compromise of flashlights and electronic hazard flashers on their backs because those aren't other donkeys whizzing by them on the dark roads.

(They had another source of light during their first day, a most unearthly one that added to the religious aura of their trek: flickering lightning.)

You could even decline to criticize their untraditional supper the first night out: pizza. But a purist might object to his three-man film crew.

"When they heard I wanted to do this, a year and a half ago, they said they wanted to come along. Mind you, if I do this again some year, I don't think they'll be interested again."

By the looks of it, the film crew will spend the rest of their lives soaking their sore feet.

I HAD arranged to meet the trekkers at the village of Salim, near Jenin, where they camped the first night. I drove past them on the way there and, like other drivers, I slowed down to gawk at this bizarre sight: six ghostly figures, in bright yellow raincoats, with red blips flashing on their backs. And donkeys. In the dark, in the rain.

Their first day out, they had been cursed with rotten weather, which only got worse the second day.

They arrived at Salim wet, beat, chilled, but quietly triumphant. It was 10 p.m.; they had set out at four in the morning, covering about 40 km in 18 hours.

Menahem had no trouble getting his boys to bed that night.

danger, pointing out that the only one among us who even noticed the day's significance was a journalist. Abu Bakr himself waved it off as meaningless. "We must live in peace, we are all Israelis," he said.

Salim was to be the only Arab stopover. Subsequent nights would be spent in Mevo Dotan, Samur in the Shomron, Sebastia, Yizhar, then Shabbat in the new settlement of Rehelim, yesterday in Ofra. And tonight, if all goes according to plan, they're going to pitch their tents at the entrance to Jerusalem.

"What will you do when you get to Jerusalem?" I asked.

"What does a Jew do when he comes to Jerusalem?" he answered - or asked back.

Tomorrow morning, they will arise with the new day, burden their beasts one more time, and enter the Holy City. The sun will be glinting off the golden stones, everybody in town will be bustling about in preparation for the festival, and the Goldbergs will march up to the great Temple and proffer a sacrifice. 100,000 other happy Jews and their 100,000 donkeys milling about with not a McDonald's in sight.

Or, more likely, everyone will point at them and say, "Look at the weirdos."

They don't plan to stay long in Jerusalem. They will go straight to the Kotel, pray - and unceremoniously load the donkeys on a truck and drive back home.

Stay a while, I said, proud to offer my city to the weary travelers.

Menahem laughed coarsely. "Stay? Like, for the seder? Are you inviting me? Ah, you see the difference? You come up with excuses. If your name was Abu Bakr, you would say to me 'fad dal' (welcome), eh?"

But I'm not so sure Jerusalemites of 2,000 years ago would have, either.

Yesterday, sensing the nearness of the Holy City, basking in a glorious sunny day, the Goldbergs were walking on air. "I can't describe the feeling," Menahem said, in absolute elation. "We're right on time, everybody's been so good to us. My boys are strong, they came through. We're going to make it!"

Fad dal. Welcome to Jerusalem. Shalom aleichem.

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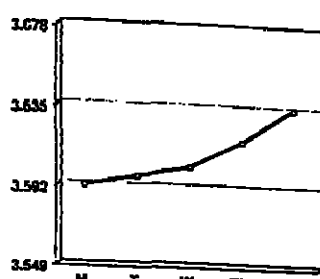
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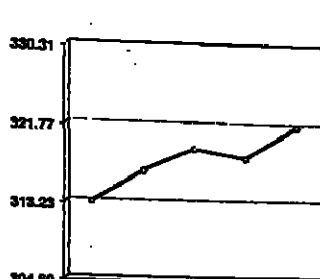
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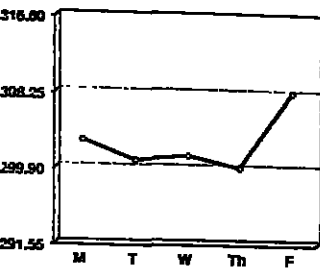


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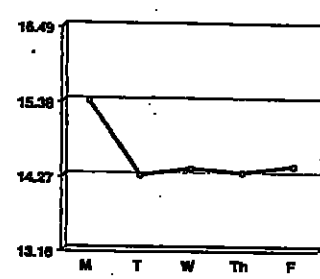
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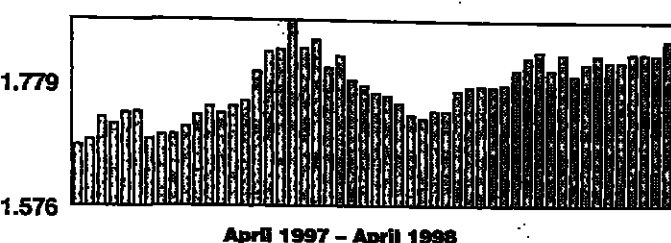


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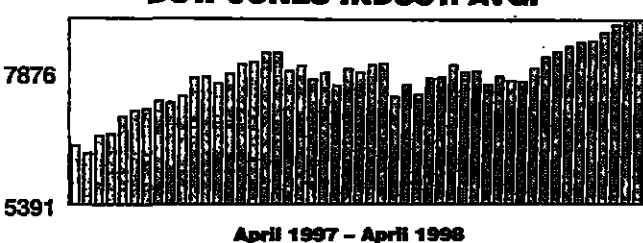
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LEUMI

IAI seeking foreign partner for Amos satellite project

By STEVE RODAN

Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd., frustrated in its attempt to promote the still-grounded Amos HP satellite, is searching for an American or European strategic partner to market the communications facility.

The company is holding talks with several Western firms, including Boeing Co. and Mobile Communications Holding Inc.

"We have changed our strategy," said Ze'ev Nahmoni, IAI deputy vice president and deputy general manager of IAI Electronics Group. "Instead of going after countries, we are trying to go after companies."

IAI has concluded from a study of the direct broadcast satellite market that the company lacks sufficient financing and achievements to sell the Amos HP, he said. At the same time, with the exception of Hughes Space and Communications, most Western companies do not have a satellite the size of the Amos HP.

"These companies don't have a reasonable answer to the small satellite of the Hughes 376," Nahmoni said, "and we are trying to come to an agreement with one of them."

In May 1996, IAI launched the Amos I communications satellite on an Ariane 4 rocket in a geosynchronous transfer orbit and has filled four of its seven active transponders, largely with Israeli and government vendors. The satellite has nine transponders overall.

In contrast, the Amos HP was meant for a foreign client and has been marketed in such countries as Columbia and Vietnam without success. Its aim was to convince developing countries to purchase a small, low-cost communications satellite in the vicinity of \$150 million.

Industry sources said the Amos HP has two obstacles. One is its price, which the sources said is higher than the competitors entering the small satellite market. The other is IAI's relative inexperience in commercial satellites.

IAI's review of its Amos opera-

tions came after the company failed to rank on the short list of several competitors seeking a joint cooperation agreement with Lockheed Martin Telecommunications for a small satellite. Lockheed Martin has been seeking a small satellite to complement its A-2100 series and as a competitor to the successful Hughes Communications 376 model.

IAI and Clal Investment Inc. submitted a proposal late last year for the Amos HP, regarded as an excellent small facility planned for between 12 and 16 transponders. But Lockheed Martin executives said the price, submitted at the end of last year, was not competitive.

"They did come in very high," an L-M executive said. "They came in way out of the box and we told them this."

In response, IAI requested an opportunity to review their figures and submit another price for L-M's request for information.

But a senior L-M executive said the company has already arrived at several decisions. "We are going

to pursue two paths: development of a small bus and a strategic partner," the executive said. "I cannot say at this point who is the partner."

Nahmoni said the winner of the L-M competition was an Indian consortium, which he said he could not name. He said the Indian entry came in with a much lower bid than any of the other companies in the competition.

"We were competitive in price with the other Western companies," Nahmoni said. "The Indian company was heavily subsidized and thus came in with a much lower price. It also brought with it markets."

Industry sources who followed the negotiations said IAI's high price is based on what it is obtaining for leasing the transponders on the Amos I. They said that the Israeli government has pledged to take three of the satellites seven transponders at \$5 million per year per transponder.

"This is much higher than the going rate," an industry source

said. "With such a high price, IAI is finding it hard to attract customers."

IAI executives said the future of the Amos HP lies with finding a strategic partner. They said IAI can't provide the generous financing required to sell satellites to developing countries.

For his part, Nahmoni said that IAI is talking to Boeing about joining its 288-satellite Teledesic program and MCH's 17-satellite Ellipso system.

Some government officials are concerned that without a major partner for IAI's Amos the project will disintegrate. They said the developers of the satellite have left for other projects in the state-owned company.

"Because IAI is project-oriented, if there is an order for another Amos, then they will have to start from scratch," a government official said. "IAI will have to pull engineers out of current projects and that is no easy matter. The key is to find a source of money."



A beer for women

Anheuser-Busch is trying to attract women consumers with a new beer, Catalina Blonde, a low calorie drink being test-marketed by the US brewery. A bottle has 86 calories, about 10 fewer than any other light beers.

State revenues down 0.3% in 1st quarter

By DAVID HARRIS

State revenues from taxation shrank 0.3 percent in real terms during the first quarter, in comparison to the same period last year, according to figures published yesterday by the Treasury.

Between January and March 1997, the government raised NIS 26.9 billion and while that figure increased to NIS 28.3b. this year, after inflation is taken into account there was a real term decrease.

Among the major factors in the decline was a 15% fall in receipts from the various land taxes, pointing to the slowdown in the economy and a lack of activity in the real estate industry.

The NIS 12b. raised by the Customs and VAT Authority also showed a decline - some 1.3% in real terms. The key drop was in import duties, down 9%.

On the other hand, income tax

receipts increased 0.5% to NIS 15.6b. Additionally, the various other fees and tolls raised by the government rose 2.3% during the first quarter.

Early figures from the Treasury suggest an improvement during March, mainly because of the numbers of cars and electrical goods imported.

The number of cars imported last month totaled 11,670, up 8% on the same month a year ago. However, since there has been a 5% decline in vehicle imports since the start of the year.

During the first quarter there was also a decline in the import of washing machines (-0.5%). This was offset by increased entries of refrigerators (20%), VCRs (19%), televisions (12%), and dishwashers (10%).

Analysts said the March increase in imports was because of an anticipated devaluation of the shekel.

Tshuva to buy 37% of Delek for NIS 524m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Contractor Yitzhak Tshuva is negotiating with Discount Investment for the purchase of Discount's 37 percent holdings in Delek, the Israel Fuel Corp. for NIS 524 million, Tshuva's spokesman yesterday said.

"It seems that the deal will soon be finalized," spokesman Noam Yellin said.

"Tshuva has decided to buy Discount Investments out in order to start looking for a strategic partner for Delek."

The decision came after both companies failed to finalize a previous agreement for the joint management of Israel's second largest petroleum company.

Earlier this year, Tshuva completed a takeover of Delek through his company

Tashluz Assets. Yellin said, however, that this time Tshuva will buy Discount's holdings through a privately held company rather than through Tashluz. The deal is expected to be completed at a price of NIS 160 per share, the same price for which Bank Hapoalim sold its 25% stake to Tshuva's company.

In a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock

Exchange Tashluz said that the two companies are continuing negotiations on the makeup of Delek's board of directors.

In a previous agreement, Tshuva and Discount agreed to share control of the company through the end of January 1999 and that Lenny Recanatani would be chairman of the board, while Tshuva would have the right to replace Amnon Sadeh, Delek's managing director.

Despite Treasury pleas:

Minimum wage increases 8.48% to NIS 2,600

By DAVID HARRIS

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday approved an 8.48 percent increase in the minimum wage, to NIS 2,609.18 effective April 1.

The minimum salary, which this

time last year stood at NIS 2,405.25, is based on 47.5% of the average wage, which is currently NIS 5,493, according to the National Insurance Institute.

Treasury figures suggest that in real terms there has been a 5.5% increase in comparison to the monthly wage in April last year, after a variety of technical factors have been taken into account.

Yishai said in a statement that it is vital that there is competent supervision of the implementation of the minimum wage and urged employers to observe the new regulations. "This is a fundamental of

Israeli society and reduces the exploitation of the weaker classes," read the statement.

The order also sets the minimum hourly rate at NIS 14.03, the daily wage for a six-day week at NIS 104.37, and NIS 120.42 as the daily pay for a five-day week.

Earlier this year there were repeated calls on the part of the Prime Minister's Office and Finance Ministry for this update to be delayed until 1999. The two ministries are trying to help reduce inflation and also limit pay increases in the public sector. Negotiations are ongoing between the Treasury and

Histadrut over salary levels in the public sector for 1998 and 1999.

In February, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Moshe Leon warned that an update this year would prevent job creation and may lead to further unemployment.

Leon and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said the wage should be allowed to rise in line with inflation, in a worst case scenario.

To freeze the minimum wage, it would have been necessary to introduce legislation to prevent the annual increase, but attempts to do so have failed.

ISRAEL ELECTRIC TENDERS

An invitation for bids (RFP) for Tender No. 9/158 to adapt the decentralized computer system for the year 2000, in two stages. First stage - submission of technical/commercial data without prices.

The Israel Electric Corporation Ltd. (hereinafter "the Corporation") hereby invites bids to adapt the decentralized computer system for the year 2000, in two stages.

Preliminary Conditions for Submitting Bids: Compliance with the preconditions detailed in the mandatory tender conditions 1993 clause 1, 2, 3, 6(a) (registration as required by law, for transactions with public bodies).

Meeting of bidders will take place at 10 a.m. on April 14, 1998 in the Palyam Building, 1 Rehov Palyam, Haifa. Bidders must also meet the conditions detailed in Clause 0.18 in the Administration chapter.

Tender documents and additional details can be obtained from the Data Systems and Teleprocessing Unit, 11 Shderot Palyam, Haifa, Floor 9, Room 914, Tel. 04-868-7378, Sundays to Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. from April 6, 1998. The offices will be closed during Hol Hamoad Pessah. The documents can be obtained against a receipt for payment of the sum of NIS690 (including VAT) into the Electric Corporation's account in any branch of the Postal Bank. (This payment is not refundable).

Payment vouchers can be obtained at the above address or by calling 04-868-7378. The tender documents may be perused before purchase at the Electric Corporation offices at the above address. The bid should be submitted in a sealed envelope and placed in the Tenders Box in the Palyam Building, Floor 11, by the last date for submission: April 26, 1998 at 3 p.m.

The Corporation reserves the right to negotiate with various bidders. The Corporation has no obligation to accept the cheapest bid or any of them.

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Preconditions: 1. The bidder must have at least three years' proven experience in supplying the public/institutional sector. 2. Companies participating in this tender must have proven ability to provide services to at least 40 P.C. units during an eight-hour work day. 3. The bidder must have a turnover of at least NIS150,000 solely in the field of cleaning computer systems in 1997. An auditor's certification of this must be attached.

The last date for submission of bids is: Monday May 19, 1998 until 12 noon.

Applications for the tender documents should be made by fax only, to 02-5317778, giving the following information: Tender number: Subject: Name of company bidding: Authorized Trader's no. Company's address, with zip code: Tel. Fax:

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On Thursday, the government sold 2% of Bank Leumi for \$5 million to Lehman Brothers Inc. which resold the shares.

out the deficit by 2000, diversify the economy and increase state income.

"This budget comes in the wake of circumstances that have a great effect on oil prices which have declined to low levels," Finance Minister Youssef Hussein Kamis said.

"The government had no plan budget that would have no effect on the performance of services in a negative way and on the completion of previously planned government projects and with a deficit that would be manageable during the year."

Oil income accounts for about 70% of Qatar's state revenue. Earlier this year oil prices fell to nine-year lows, but they have

Gaining exporters included Israel Chemicals which surged 3.92% and Koor Industries Israel's biggest publicly-traded industrial exporter, which rose 0.67%. (Bloomberg)

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Zeller Abington Bond B	122	0.4
Zeller Inc. Bond A	67.5	0
Zeller Inc. Warrant 1	10.3	0
Zika 1	913	0
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St. Louis Blues extend winning streak to five

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Geoff Courtnall scored his team-leading 30th goal and Pierre Turgeon had two assists as the St. Louis Blues extended their winning streak to five games with a 4-1 win over the slumping Colorado Avalanche.

Playing on Saturday without the NHL's second-leading scorer Peter Forsberg, who is sidelined with a groin injury, the Avalanche have lost four in a row for the first time since the team moved to Colorado in 1995-96. The Avalanche have scored only three goals in those four games.

Al MacInnis extended his scoring streak to six games with an assist on Courtnall's goal. Blues goaltender Grant Fuhr made 20 saves to record career win No. 380, moving him ahead of Colorado's Patrick Roy and into fifth place on the all-time list.

Red Wings 3, Blackhawks 2. Brendan Shanahan scored with 2.8 seconds left in regulation to lift Detroit to a road win.

Shanahan connected from the slot on a rebound moments after Steve Yzerman had won a faceoff in the Chicago zone to the right of Blackhawks goaltender Jeff Hackett.

Martin Lapointe and Mironov also scored for the Red Wings. Kevin Miller and Chad Kilger scored for Chicago.

Both goaltenders, Hackett and

Detroit's Chris Osgood, made some spectacular saves to keep the game close. Hackett made 33 saves and Osgood, 27.

Capitals 3, Kings 2. Peter Bondra and Steve Konowalchuk both had a goal and an assist to help the Capitals stretch their home winning streak to eight.

The Capitals took over fourth in the Eastern Conference playoff race with 83 points. Both Boston and Buffalo have 81 with eight games left while Washington has seven remaining.

Los Angeles started the day fifth in the Western Conference with 79 points.

Panthers 4, Flyers 1. Steve Washburn and Kirk Muller scored goals within 20 seconds in the first period and John Vanbiesbroeck made 37 saves as Florida snapped host Philadelphia's three-game winning streak.

David Nemirovsky and Ray Whitney each added a goal and an assist for the Panthers, who have won four of their last five games.

Mike Sillinger scored his 19th goal for the Flyers, who suffered only their second loss in their last 12 home games (8-2-2).

Vanbiesbroeck moved past his goaltending coach Billy Smith into 13th place on the all-time NHL list with 306 career wins, the sixth best among active players.

Islanders 3, Rangers 0. Tommy Salo and Wade Flaherty combined to stop 17 shots as the Islanders beat the visiting Rangers in a night-filled game.

Salo started the game and turned aside all 14 shots he faced. He was ejected after a fight with 6:59 left and Flaherty took over and stopped three more shots.

That marked the first time the Islanders posted back-to-back shutouts since Ron Hextall blanked Ottawa and Washington on Feb. 19 and 21, 1994.

Claude Lapointe, Zigmund Palffy and Joe Sacco scored for the Islanders, all against Dan Cloutier, who stopped 18 shots.

Cloutier was also thrown out along

with Salo, and Mike Richter came in and stopped three shots.

Penguins 4, Lightning 1. Jaromir Jagr had a goal and two assists and visiting Pittsburgh scored three power-play goals, snapping a five-game winless streak.

Sean Pronger, Ron Francis and Kevin Hatcher each had a goal for the Penguins and Tom Barraso made 20 saves as the Lightning lost for the sixth time in their last seven games.

Jagr, the NHL's scoring leader with 95 points, had been held without a goal during the club's five-game streak.

Hurricanes 1, Canadiens 0. Carolina's Trevor Kidd stopped 24 shots and Jeff O'Neill scored a sec-

ond-period power-play goal to lead the Hurricanes to an away victory.

The Canadiens, who are fighting for a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, are in seventh place, one point behind Boston and Buffalo. The suddenly hot Hurricanes, meanwhile, moved within two points of the Senators and the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Carolina is now 5-1-1 in its last seven games. Both teams have eight games left in the regular season.

N.Y. Rangers 0, Islanders 0. First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Lapointe 9 (Palffy, Bernard), 18:15. Second Period—None. Third Period—None. Goals—Palffy 38 (Hagglund, Schultz), 4:00, 3, Islanders, Sacco 11 (Eberle, Chonko), 12:17. Goals—N.Y. Rangers, Cloutier, Richter, New York, Salo, Flaherty, A-14, 5:40.

Detroit 1, St. Louis 1-3. First Period—1, Detroit, Lapointe 12 (Mironov, Brown), 2:40 (pp). Second Period—2, Chicago, Miller 4 (1:28, 3, Detroit, Mironov 7 (Mironov, Larionov), 4:44, Third Period—4, Chicago, Kiger 3 (Mironov), 5:28 (pp), 5, Detroit, Shanahan 28 (Mironov, Yzerman), 13:57. Goals—Detroit, Osgood, Chicago, Hackett, A-22, 5:37.

Colorado 0, St. Louis 0-1. First Period—1, St. Louis, Rasmussen 5 (Campbell, Pronger), 10:43 (pp). Second Period—2, Colorado, Sacco 25 (Mironov, Lemieux), 11:33. St. Louis, Courtnall 30 (Turgeon, Mironov), 17:52 (pp). Third Period—4, St. Louis, Courtnall 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 5, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 6, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 7, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 8, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 9, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 10, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 11, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 12, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 13, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 14, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 15, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 16, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 17, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 18, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 19, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 20, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 21, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 22, St. Louis, Turgeon 10 (Turgeon, Mironov), 1:54, 23, 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Off Broadway

Funny, but Yankees don't look like a \$72m team

OAKLAND — If the New York Yankees were a Broadway play, they might have closed by now. And don't think George Steinbrenner hasn't thought of that.

So enraged was Steinbrenner after the season-opening defeat that he proclaimed the Yankees will not be opening on the West Coast next year. However, the way they are playing now, they'd have to hand-pick their opponents to have any chance at all. Do the St. Paul Saints have any open dates next April?

Saturday's game looked like a proverbial game on paper: the superb and clutch David Cone vs. Jimmy Haynes, a career eight-game winner. But it was the Oakland Athletics, one of only a few teams in AL history without one single player in his prime, who smacked around Cone and the Yankees, 7-3, rising from the ranks of the winless. As things stand now, those ranks include only one AL team.

Yep, you guessed it. There was a lot of clubhouse talk among the Yankees afterward about how they've been thrown off their "A" game by a few off days and rainouts. Truth be told, they played Saturday as if they'd been away a month.

This is not what any of us envisioned, least of all the big guy shelling out the \$72 million to watch this from Tampa. After the first defeat, Steinbrenner wondered aloud whether the team was overconfident and lacked focus. If we can assume Steinbrenner is three times angrier with his club now 0-3, well, that red face should go nicely with his ever-present white turtleneck.

Steinbrenner already is known to have chastised one club official over the scheduling and the weather, so nobody would be stunned if Joe Torre starts getting those midnight phone calls. Nobody would be surprised if those calls started coming today.

In most locales it would be considered bad form, inappropriate and just plain nuts to question a manager about his own job security after 14th of a baseball season. Yet Torre did not bat an eye when three reporters approached him with just such a question about an hour after Saturday's defeat.

"I'm not concerned about me," Torre said. "What we've done the last couple years has put my mind at ease as far as accomplishing the things I wanted to accomplish. I don't want to say I'm satisfied with that. But you can't worry about it. You have to know that all you can do is the best job you can do. I'm not going to have three or four or five games change what I do or the way I feel about what I do."

That's not saying I don't feel bad about losses, because they drive me nuts. But as far as the fallout goes, whatever it is, it is."

Torre is the right manager for this team, just as he was the right manager for the last two Yankees teams. Yet when the Yankees are losing, nobody seems right to Steinbrenner. Bob Lemon, a Hall of Famer who won a World Series for Steinbrenner in 1978, was dumped 14 games into 1982. Yogi Berra, a Yankees icon, was pink-slipped 16 games into 1985. That, coincidentally, was the last time the Yankees started 0-3.

Three games do not make a season, but three games are enough to add to the pressure. "I think we're pressing too much, maybe trying too hard," Bernie Williams said. "We have to settle down. We just have to relax."

Chuck Knoblauch, trumpeted in this very newspaper last week as baseball's best base-stealer, was picked off first twice by Haynes.

The second time, he just stood in place as first baseman Jason Giambi applied the tag 10 feet off the bag.

Knoblauch, a Gold Glove winner last year, shot-putted one ball about five feet over first baseman Tino Martinez' head. Quite a neat trick, as Knoblauch and Martinez were only about 20 feet apart.

Derek Jeter has fumbled nearly half the balls hit to him, though he has yet to be charged with an error. Jeff Nelson overcharged a bunt, allowing it to bounce over his head. Darryl Strawberry and Joe Girardi maintained their .000 batting averages, with Strawberry whiffing twice and Girardi grounding into two double plays.

If Steinbrenner wants to initiate a disagreement with Torre, he may well start at catcher, where The Boss favors up-and-comer Jorge Posada over Girardi, recently nominated by the Wall Street Journal as one of the game's 10 worst hitters. However, Torre, who said before Saturday's game that Posada would start yesterday, favors Girardi's defense and experience.

The Yankees have been outscored, 21-6, so there was nothing Torre could have done strategically. He promises to stick to his plan, the same plan that won 188 regular-season games and one World Series over the past two seasons. He also promises to be himself and maintain his composure. That's Torre.

Speaking about the pressure from above, Torre said, "If you start paying attention to that, you're taking attention away from what really needs to be done, and that's really cheating everyone involved."

"If I start worrying about that, I'll manage scared and distracted, and you can't do that."

(Newsday)

Cassell's 30 points leads Nets over Knicks

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Sam Cassell had 30 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, and Keith Van Horn added 25 points as the New Jersey Nets beat the New York Knicks 97-94 on Saturday to boost their playoff chances.

Kerry Kittles blocked Charlie Ward's 3-point attempt as time ran out to preserve the victory for the Nets, who held on to eighth place in the Eastern Conference, one game ahead of Orlando and Washington for the final playoff spot.

Allan Houston scored 29 points for the Knicks who had their two-game winning streak snapped.

Heat 101, Hornets 88

Tim Hardaway scored 29 points as undermanned Miami beat Charlotte for a home win.

It was Miami's first victory over Charlotte in four meetings this season.

Spurs 88, Warriors 80 (OT)

David Robinson had 24 points, 18 rebounds and seven blocks as the Spurs recovered after blowing a big fourth-quarter lead to notch an overtime win at home.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, who

won their fifth straight.

Suns 90, Trail Blazers 83

Antonio McDyess scored 23 points and Jason Kidd sparked a late fourth-quarter run as host Phoenix won its fourth straight.

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
at Miami	53	22	.707	—
New York	41	34	.547	12
New Jersey	38	36	.514	14
Orlando	37	37	.500	15 1/2
Washington	37	37	.500	15 1/2
Boston	32	41	.444	19 1/2
Philadelphia	28	46	.378	24 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
at Chicago	57	17	.770	—
at Indiana	51	23	.689	6
at Charlotte	47	27	.635	10
Atlanta	44	29	.603	12 1/2
Cleveland	42	32	.568	15
Detroit	34	41	.453	23 1/2
Milwaukee	33	41	.444	24
Toronto	15	58	.205	40 1/2

Western Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
at Utah	55	18	.753	—
San Antonio	52	23	.693	5
at Minnesota	39	36	.514	17 1/2
at Houston	37	37	.500	18 1/2
Dallas	1	56	.023	37
Vancouver	16	57	.219	39
Denver	9	65	.122	46 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
at Seattle	54	18	.757	—
at LA Lakers	54	20	.730	2
at Phoenix	49	25	.662	7
at Portland	41	33	.554	15
Sacramento	26	48	.351	30
LA Clippers	16	58	.216	40
Golden State	16	59	.213	40 1/2

Golden State 22 14 18 24 4-80

McGwire on fire: 4 games, 4 HRs



ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire remains on his 162-home run pace.

McGwire became only the second player in NL history to homer in the first four games of the season, tying Willie Mays' record with a towering three-run shot in the St. Louis Cardinals' 8-6 victory over the San Diego Padres Sunday.

McGwire has 12 RBIs, all on home runs, and has homered in six consecutive games dating to last season, when he fell only three short of Roger Maris' record of 61 in 1961. Mays was 39 years old when he homered in four consecutive games for San Francisco in 1971.

Reds 3, Dodgers 1

Brett Tomko, one of Cincinnati's biggest concerns during spring training, pitched a career-high eight innings and singled home a run as visiting Los Angeles remained winless.

At 0-4, the Dodgers are off to their worst start in 11 years. Their worst start since they moved to Los Angeles is 0-5, a mark they reached in 1970, 1976 and 1987.

Mets 7, Pirates 6 (13)

Rich Becker's single over a drawn-in outfield in the bottom of the 13th inning gave New York its third win in its final at-bat this season.

New York, which scored once in the eighth and three times in the ninth to tie it 6-6, has played four straight one-run games to start the year with two going to extra innings.

The Mets led the majors with 47 comeback wins in 1997.

Cubs 3, Expos 1

Sammy Sosa hit his first homer and Terry Mulholland got his first win since last July 4 as host Chicago won its fourth straight.

Mulholland, the Cubs' opening day starter last season before being picked up on waivers by the Giants in August, allowed four hits and one unearned run in 5 1/2 innings on another cold day at Wrigley Field.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 3

Host Arizona dropped to 0-5 when San Francisco rallied for four runs in the seventh inning.

The Diamondbacks, who dropped a three-game series to start the season against Colorado, are off to the worst start for an expansion team since the 1962 New York Mets went 0-9.

Brian Johnson homered and Rich Aurilia hit an RBI single in the seventh when the Giants overcame a 3-1 deficit.

Brewers 6, Marlins 2

Marlins' Jeff Juden pitched six strong innings and visiting Milwaukee pounded out to hand Florida its fourth consecutive loss. Juden, who allowed six hits and two runs in his debut with the Brewers, improved to 4-0 lifetime against Florida with an ERA of 3.15.

The Marlins, who were scheduled to receive their World Series championship rings before yesterday's game, remained winless since their opening-day victory against Chicago.



TURNING TWO — A's shortstop Rafael Bournival, despite being upended by Yankees runner Scott Brosius, completes the twin killing in fourth-inning play. Oakland kept New York winless in three outings.

Braves 5, Phillies 4

Dennis Martinez won for the first time in nearly a year and moved within one victory of Juan Marichal's record for Latin American pitchers after Atlanta scored four runs in the bottom of the eighth.

Martinez, 43 next month, allowed one run and five hits in two innings, improving his career record to 242-187. He struck out four and walked one in his first win since beating Cleveland for Seattle last April 14.

Rockies 5, Astros 3

Ellis Burks and Dante Bichette hit run-scoring doubles in a fourth-inning inning as visiting Colorado improved to 4-1.

Colorado trailed 2-1 going into the fifth. Ellis Burks and Mike Lansing doubled off Sean Bergman (0-1) to tie it. Larry Walker was hit by a pitch and Bichette hit a go-ahead double.

Mark Thompson (1-0) allowed three runs and six hits in five innings. Jerry DiPoto pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Athletics 7, Yankees 3

Scott Spiezio hit a grand slam off David Cone during a five-run sixth inning, and visiting New York fell to 0-3 for the first time since 1985.

In his first appearance since shoulder surgery on Oct. 17, Cone (0-1) failed to hold a 3-0 lead. Oakland trailed 3-2 before Spiezio's homer.

Jimmy Haynes (1-0) gave up three runs in six innings.

Blue Jays 9, Rangers 2

Jose Canseco and Mike Stanley hit consecutive solo homers in the sixth, and Woody Williams (1-0) allowed both runs and four hits in seven innings, striking out five as Toronto notched a home win.

Darren Oliver (0-1), who gave up four runs and seven hits in six innings. The homers were the first Oliver gave up in his last 51 innings against Toronto.

Juan Gonzalez hit a two-run homer for the Rangers.

Orioles 2, Tigers 1

Scott Kamieniecki (1-0) allowed

four hits in six shutout innings, and three relievers combined on one-hit relief. Cal Ripken drove in the go-ahead run in the sixth, helping host Baltimore win its fourth straight.

Devil Rays 8, White Sox 2

Knuckleballer Dennis Springer held visiting Chicago to six hits in 7 1/2 innings and Fred McGriff, Rich Butler and Mike Delfino all homered for Tampa Bay.

The expansion Devil Rays played the game under protest after Chicago's Frank Thomas hit a disputed fourth-inning home run that struck a catwalk in left field before coming down in foul territory.

Royals 3, Twins 2

Jose Offerman led off the top of the 10th with a triple off Eddie Guardado (1-1) and scored on Hal Morris' grounder.

Brian Bevil (1-0) pitched two hitless innings in relief, and Jeff Montgomery pitched the 10th for

his second save.

Dean Palmer tied a Royals record with three doubles one night after matching a career high with four hits.

Mariners 12, Red Sox 5

Ken Griffey Jr. hit his third homer and drove in three runs, and Glenallen Hill and Rick Wilkins also connected for host Seattle, who have 13 homers in four games after setting a record with 264 last year.

Bill Swift (1-0), released by Colorado and Baltimore last August, allowed four runs, five hits and four walks in five innings, getting his first AL win since June 13, 1991, when he beat Detroit in relief for the Seattle Mariners.

Indians 11, Angels 0

Bartolo Colon pitched a four-hitter for his first complete-game victory, striking out 10 as visiting Cleveland improved to 4-0.

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	000	000	0.000	—
Toronto	000	000	0.000	—
at Cleveland	000	000	0.000	—
at Detroit	000	000	0.000	—
at Kansas City	000	000	0.000	—
at Los Angeles	000	000	0.000	—
at Minnesota	000	000	0.000	—
at New York	000	000	0.000	—
at Oakland	000	000	0.000	—
at Philadelphia	000	000	0.000	—
at St. Louis	000	000	0.000	—
at Tampa Bay	000	000	0.000	—

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
at Baltimore	000	000	0.000	—
at Boston	000	000	0.000	—
at Chicago	000	000	0.000	—
at Cincinnati	000	000	0.000	—
at Colorado	000	000	0.000	—
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at Montreal	000	000	0.000	—
at New York	000	000	0.000	—
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at Chicago	000	000	0.000	—
at Cincinnati	000	000	0.000	—

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By ELI GRONER

Although it took longer than expected for three of last night's favorites to establish their superiority, Hapoel Jerusalem, Hapoel Eilat and Maccabi Ra'anana eventually broke away from unexpectedly close games, before emerging victorious in game one of their respective best-of-five Sprit Basketball League playoff quarterfinals.

In the other series opener, Maccabi Tel Aviv rolled over Maccabi Ramat Gan 87-71.

Jerusalem 87, Galil Elyon 66. The game started out looking like it would be a battle to the very end. The battle turned into a one-sided massacre over the final 10 minutes as the host Jerusalemites left the northerners shellshocked.

With just under 12 minutes remaining, Eilat Bimbaum's club started what turned into a 32-9 run to effectively close out the game. Up until that point, there had been 14 lead changes in the contest.

H Waldman led the way for Jerusalem, tallying 20 points on 7 of 8 shooting. Radisav Curcic led all scorers with 24 points. Doron Shefa chipped in 17, while Keniyy Williams added 14 to go along with nine rebounds.

Ron Curry paced the northerners with 17 points.

Eilat 103, Rishon 88 (OT).

The southerners came out for the overtime session like a team possessed and thrashed Pirmy Gershon's club 18-3 in the extra period to garner the win.

The eventual victors were down by as many as eight points approximately halfway through the second half. At that point, they reeled off a furious run that gave them the lead in the final minute. However, two Brad Sellers (22 points) free throws with 13 seconds remaining in regulation forced overtime.

Amir Katz led Eilat with 28 points, while Joe Dawson, Eddie Elisma and John Harwell added 18 apiece.

Ra'anana 91, Herzliya 73.

With the score tied at 64 and 8:28 remaining, the hosts broke the game open with a 23-10 run and never looked back.

Mark Brisker, who played over 19 minutes in the second half with four fouls, scored 24 points to lead Ra'anana to the victory. Paul Thompson added 20 second-half points (22 overall).

For Herzliya, Uri Cohen Mintz and Tal Borstein had 16 points apiece.

SCOREBOARD

ITALIAN SOCCER - Weekend Serie A results: Atalanta 0, Roma 1; Bari 1, AC Milan 0; Bologna 2, Udinese 0; Empoli 3, Brescia 1; Inter Milan 3, Sampdoria 0; Napoli 1, Fiorentina 2; Parma 1, Fiorentina 2; Venezia 1, Lecce 3; Lazio 0, Juventus 1.

SPANISH SOCCER - Weekend first division results: Tenerife 0, Real Zaragoza 0; Valencia 4, Atletico Madrid 0; Mallorca 1, Valencia 0; Racing Santander 2, Celta Vigo 1; Real Sociedad 1, Salamanca 1; Sporting Gijon 1, Espanol 0; Valladolid 4, Compostela 1; Borussia 2, Oviedo 1; Deportivo Coruna 2, Real Betis 0; Real Madrid 0, Athletic Bilbao 0.

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Arsenal, Newcastle reach FA Cup final

LONDON (Reuters) - Arsenal and Newcastle United will meet in the FA Cup Final next month - and break a 103-year-old record - after both teams scored single goal victories over first division opponents in their semifinals yesterday.

Only two other clubs - Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion in 1887, 1892 and 1895 - have ever met in three Cup finals in the 127-year history of the competition.

Arsenal, who last won the Cup in 1993, stayed on course to repeat their 1971 Cup and League double after beating a hard-battling Wolverhampton Wanderers side 1-0 at Villa Park thanks to a 13th minute goal from Liberian Christopher Weir.

Newcastle, who last won the trophy in 1955, beat Sheffield United with a 60th-minute goal from Alan Shearer which gave ended the first division's side's resistance at Old Trafford.

Arsenal and Newcastle previously met in the Cup Finals of 1932 and 1952.

In 1932 Newcastle won 2-1 thanks to the infamous "over-the-line" goal, so called because photographs and newsreels after the game seemed to prove the ball had crossed the goal-line before Jack Allen scored the first of his two goals which won the match.

In 1952 Newcastle beat Arsenal 1-0 with Chilean George Robledo scoring the only goal.

The final will be Arsenal's 13th and Newcastle's 12th - and the second year in succession that a side from London and the North-East will do battle for the most famous club cup in the world.

Last season Chelsea defeated Middlesbrough 2-0 - and also beat

Boro by the same score in the League Cup Final last week.

Arsenal last won the Cup in 1993 when they beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 in a replay, but Newcastle have not won the Cup since 1955 when they defeated Manchester City 3-1 for their third victory in five seasons. Their last appearance was in 1974 when they were caned 3-0 by Liverpool.

Ironically Arsenal and Newcastle meet each other in a Premier League clash at Highbury next Saturday when Arsenal will be looking to take another three points in their bid to wrest the title from Manchester United.

Despite reaching the Cup Final, Newcastle have had a wretched spell in the League with only two wins in their last 18 league matches, and will be looking for three points to stave off the remote threat of relegation.

The deciding goal in the Arsenal-Wolves semifinal came after only 13 minutes when Arsenal seized on a poor clearance by Wolves' Dutch keeper Hans Segers who kicked the ball straight to Patrick Vieira 30 meters from goal.

He brushed past two Wolves challenges before passing to Weir whose right-footed angled shot gave Segers no chance.

Shearer's strike came after Sheffield goalkeeper Alan Kelly parried his header but could not stop the ball running loose to the England striker who prodded the ball home from a metre out.

Derby 0, Chelsea 1

Chelsea moved up to fourth in the English Premier League yesterday after a 37th minute Mark Hughes header gave them a 1-0 win at Derby County.

Player-coach Gianluca Vialli made seven changes from the side that lost 1-0 to Vicenza in the first leg of the European Cup Winners Cup semifinal on Thursday, and one of them - 18-year-old debutant John Harley - created the winner.

Hughes met Harley's cross and sent his header arcing over Russell Hoult for the only goal of the match.

Roberto di Matteo went close to scoring an audacious goal for Chelsea in the first half.

Standing in the center-circle he spotted Hoult off his line and only just missed with a 50-meter chip. The defeat was Derby's third league loss in succession and denied their already faint hopes of a UEFA Cup place next season, leaving them in eighth place with 45 points.

SCOTLAND
Rangers striker Ally McCoist yet again proved the hammer of Celtic as he scored in a 2-1 win which took his club to the final of the Scottish Cup yesterday.

The 35-year-old former European goalscorer of the year broke the semifinal deadlock in a tense Old Firm derby with a 75th-minute diving header to record his 27th goal against Celtic.

An 88th-minute solo goal by German midfielder Joerg Albertz booked Rangers' passage into the final against Hearts on May 16.

Celtic, who were left to rue a succession of missed chances in the first half, did manage a reply in injury time through Craig Burley but their dreams of the treble - a domestic clean sweep - are gone.

The two clubs meet again next Sunday at Ibrox in a match which could decide the destination of the league title.



NATURAL WINNER - Alan Shearer celebrates after scoring Newcastle's winning goal. (Reuters)

Flamboyant French win Five Nations

LONDON (Reuters) - France produced an exhilarating display of running rugby and seven tries to thrash Wales by a record 51-0 yesterday and clinch the Five Nations championship.

It was the first time France had won back-to-back Grand Slams and their performance at Wembley showed they are a class apart in northern hemisphere rugby.

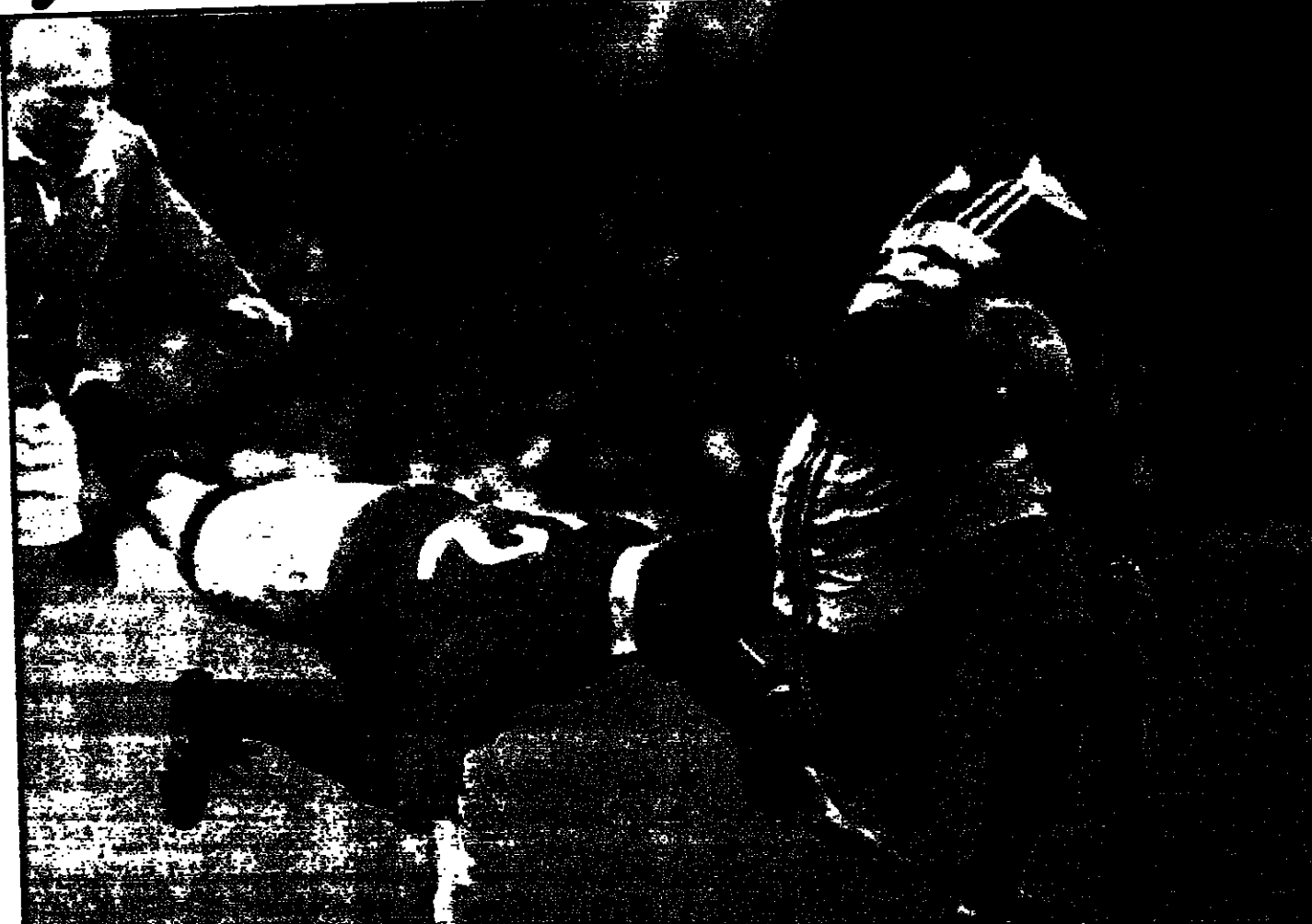
Four superb tries in the first half - two from fullback Jean-Luc Sautouy - demonstrated the French team's speed of thought and movement and helped the visitors build a halftime lead of 29-0. Winger Xavier Garbajosa scored two tries after the interval on a sunny day at Wembley which was perfect for handling. Center Christophe Lamaison added two penalties and five conversions for a total of 16 points.

France's previous biggest win over the Welsh, who were guilty of too many basic handling errors, was in 1991 when they won 36-3 at the Parc des Princes. Crucially, Wales had gone into the game without their two experienced centers Scott Gibbs and Allan Bateman.

Time and time again the French exposed the Welsh back line, with flyhalf Thomas Castaignede making breaks at will to the delight of the traveling fans. It was a great climax to the season for the French who suffered a huge psychological blow at the start of the season with a 52-10 thrashing at home by world champions South Africa.

England beat Ireland 35-17 on Saturday to claim the Triple Crown but their Grand Slam chances had been ruined by a 24-17 defeat by France in the opening match of the Five Nations in Paris.

"Today we had a lot of fun but the most important thing was to prove the real face of the French team,"



RAMPANT - France's Christophe Lamaison evades the tackle of Wales center Leigh Davies to score a try at Wembley yesterday. (Reuters)

Castaignede said, "We proved it and showed we have a new way of playing."

Captain and hooker Raphael

Ibanez added: "It was a big match. Of course I'm very happy with the victory but the most important thing was to show this group could play

together and we could win."

After the final whistle, Wembley had the air of an FA Cup final as the French ran around the pitch on a lap of

honor with the Five Nations Trophy.

Wales played their home matches at Wembley this season because their stadium in Cardiff is being rebuilt.

Israel wrap
up 4-1 Davis
Cup win
over Austria

By ORI LEWIS

Israel's Davis Cup team completed a 4-1 victory over Austria yesterday in the "dead" reverse singles rubbers at Ramat Hasharon.

With the win secured and no pressure on their backs, No. 1 Eyal Erlich, and he increased the lead over the visitors with a 7-6 (7-2) win over Austrian No. 1 Stefan Koubek.

But Amir Hadad's dream debut - he made a winning start on Friday - was soured just a little when he lost the last rubber to Wolfgang Schranz 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

Schranz, at 204 in the ATP rankings, replaced Gerald Mandl (209), who lost to Erlich on Friday.

Israel now becomes one of 16 nations to go into the International Tennis Federation's last week for the draw which will determine the eight World Group qualifying ties which will take place in September.

Among the 15 nations joining Israel will be fellow zonal group winners two of which are Great Britain, Japan and Argentina, and losers in the first round of the World Group ties this weekend.

Some of those teams are: Australia, Czech Republic, Brazil, South Africa, Slovakia and India.

Coezter captures
Family Circle Cup

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC (AP) - Amanda Coezter did what the top seeds couldn't this week - ousted Lina Spilke and win the Family Circle Championship yesterday.

Coezter caught up with just about every drop shot and took the sting out of Spilke's rocket forehands, winning 6-3, 6-4 for her first top-tier victory on the WTA Tour.

"If I had to pick one title that I would want to have my name on, this would be the one," said Coezter, the No. 4 seed who had never made it past the quarterfinals of this event in eight previous tries.

Spilke, the No. 9 seed from Romania, was the talk of the tournament, with third-set tiebreak wins over top-seeded Lindsay Davenport and No. 3 Monica Seles. But Coezter, a South African who spends about half the year at Hilton Head, drew on her speed and endurance.

Coezter won \$150,000 in the season's first clay-court event.

Golan disabled riding
event being held today

The second national competition for disabled riders will be held tomorrow at the Gamla Therapeutic Riding Center, located at Moshav Ma'ale Gamla on the Golan Heights. Over 100 competitors will take part.

People of all ages with mental problems, such as retardation and learning disabilities, will compete in the morning events while the afternoon program will be for children suffering from physical disabilities, including cerebral palsy and various motor problems. Heather Chai

UEFA punish Real Madrid
for European Cup mayhem

GENEVA (Reuters) - Real Madrid were ordered to play their next two home European matches 300 kilometers from their Santiago Bernabeu stadium and were fined a total of 1.3 million Swiss francs (\$851,000) by UEFA's Disciplinary Committee yesterday.

The ruling follows trouble at Real Madrid's European Cup semifinal with Borussia Dortmund last Wednesday when the goalposts were broken and the kickoff delayed 75

minutes. However, the result of the match stands at 2-0 to Real ahead of the second leg on April 16 after Borussia withdrew their official protest about the havoc at the match.

The fine comprised 300,000 for the crowd trouble which caused the goal frame to be broken and 1.0 million Swiss francs (\$655,000) confiscated in gate receipts by UEFA who estimated the crowd of 55,000 exceeded the allowable capacity by 15,000 fans.

Zimbabwe stun Australia in Davis Cup

MILDURA, Australia (Reuters) - Zimbabwe celebrated their greatest moment in Davis Cup history with an upset 3-2 away win over former champions Australia yesterday.

Brothers Wayne and Byron Black won the two reverse singles to defeat last year's semifinalists in Zimbabwe's first appearance in the elite world group.

"I am so proud for Zimbabwe," said Byron Black, who wrapped up the first-round tie on grass by defeating Jason Stoltenberg 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"It is almost too much to take in. I think we did the impossible by coming back from 2-1 down," he said.

Australia, leading after Saturday's doubles, suffered a setback before the start of play yesterday when world No. 4 Pat Rafter, who lost his singles match against Byron Black on Friday, pulled out because of a virus.

His replacement, doubles specialist Mark Woodforde, was beaten 6-3, 7-5, 6-7, 6-4 by Wayne Black to take the five-match tie to 2-2.

Elder brother Byron then took advantage of Stoltenberg's patchy serve to claim the tie and prompt a team celebration on the court.

In the quarter-finals in July, Zimbabwe will play Italy

who beat India on Sunday.

Rafter, the US Open champion, had looked out of sorts on Friday, when Stoltenberg gave Australia their only singles win against Wayne Black.

Tennis Australia officials said Rafter had a respiratory tract infection.

"His symptoms include inflamed glands, muscle tiredness and pain and shortness of breath on exertion," Tennis Australia said in a statement.

Australia were already depleted by Mark Philippoussis's refusal to play.

The world No. 16 said last week he was boycotting the Davis Cup team because Captain John Newcombe and coach Tony Roche had failed to give him support when his form slumped last year after he learned that his father had cancer.

But Philippoussis then turned up in Mildura, a country town 400 kms north-west of Melbourne, to watch the tie.

Other World Group results this weekend: Germany 5, South Africa 0; Switzerland 3, Czech Republic 2; Italy 4, India 1 and Spain 3, Brazil 2; Sweden 3, Slovakia 2.

The US lead Russia 2-1 and the Netherlands-Belgium are level at 2-2.

West Indies clinch one-day series v. England

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (Reuters) - West Indies took a winning 3-1 lead in the one-day series against England when they won the fourth international by four wickets at Arncliffe yesterday.

Scores - England 149, West Indies 150 for six wickets.

On Saturday, Keith Arthurton returned to the international stage after a two-year absence to help West Indies win the

third one-day game against England by five wickets.

Arthurton showed typical speed and agility in the field, bowled eight overs of slow left arm spin to take two for 31 and sealed his comeback by scoring a crucial 35 not out.

West Indies, having restricted England to 209 for eight in their 50 overs, ultimately eased home at 213 for five with 11 balls to spare.

Arthurton's form was in sharp contrast to his last appearance for West Indies during the World Cup on the Indian sub-continent in early 1996 when he scored just two runs in five innings.

The left-hander shared a significant fifth wicket stand of 48 with Carl Hooper, which steadied their side when it seemed as though they might struggle at 125 for four.

West Indies, having restricted England to 209 for eight in their 50 overs, ultimately eased home at 213 for five with 11 balls to spare.

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